REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA,
BUY YOUR COPY TODAY!!
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC.

OYAYUBIHIME
TORU FUJIEDA
INFINITY
6

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

Volume 6

By Toru Fujieda

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

VOLUME 6

READ MAIL
[SUBJECT]

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[MESSAGE BODY]

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• THE STORY SO FAR •

★ A high school student named, Kanoko, has a birthmark shaped like a butterfly on her thumb. The most popular kid at school, Tsubame, discovers her birthmark, and tells her it's a sign that she's his "true love." He has a birthmark with the same shape. Apparently, it is a symbol of a promise to meet again, made in a past life. Tsubame had been searching for Agemaki, the love of his previous life.

★ In the middle of all this, Kanoko's sister Mayu, who has the same birthmark, disappears, and Kanoko learns that she herself was indeed Agemaki in the past life. However, Kanoko's Agemaki is not quite the person Tsubame was looking for. Though this somewhat disappoints Kanoko, she feels a great sympathy for Agemaki, and is able to look forward with renewed will.

★ And then there's Arata —the leader of the idol group "Splash"—who claims to be a person with whom Agemaki shared a deep relationship in the past life. It turns out he's not lying —and Kanoko at first reluctantly begins to get to know him. Soon, fearing that he will lose her to Tsubame, Arata hatches a plan to convince Misaki, a woman with the same birthmark whom Mike met at his part-time job, that she is the one Tsubame had been looking for. Tsubame and Misaki meet, and so a great disturbance begins to manifest itself between Kanoko and Tsubame.

Character Guide #23

Ginko Ojiro

Birthday: 2/3
Blood Type: O

She appeared briefly in chapter 23.
She's a good friend of Misaki's.
She was Misaki's teacher back when she was a dancer. Now, she's the manager of a small Japanese restaurant
She still keeps up on her good looks, and all the old guys in town love her
She's a big fan of pop idols, too.
She got Arata to give her an autograph.

WHY DO YOU WEAR THAT GLOVE?
IS IT BECAUSE THE BIRTHMARK IS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
I WAS ALWAYS WONDERING...
...
...WELL ...OF COURSE...
...WHY WOULD SOMEONE LIKE ARATA FALL IN LOVE WITH ME
I FIGURED THAT IT WASN'T BECAUSE YOU LIKED "ME."
IT WAS JUST BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T HAVE ME, YOU KNOW, IN THE PAST LIFE.

YOU AIN'T GONNA PICK IT UP?
NO.
HA. ♡

AIN'T IT GORGEOUS UP HERE?
IT'S A HECK OF A THING...
TO BE ABLE TO SHARE A GOOD SILENCE WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE
SO, ARATA...

AND THERE'S... THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

YOU'RE JUST... OBSESSED WITH THE "PAST LIFE," AREN'T YOU?
HE MUST BE WITH HIS "AGEMAKI."
I WONDER IF OUR FATES CAN'T BE CHANGED AFTER ALL.
NO... SEE... I...
WE HAD A PROMISE, THAT WE'D MEET TODAY. TSUBAME DIDN'T SHOW UP.

I'M SORRY... AND--
STOP APOLO-GIZING!
LISTEN TO MY RADIO SHOW TOMOR-ROW NIGHT!
I'LL HAVE A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR YOU.
JUST... HEY, KANOKO ...
NOW YOU STAY HEALTHY UNTIL THEN, YOU HEAR?
POP

IF THERE REALLY IS A GOD...
A box of protein bars
...HE MUST REALLY THINK I'M AN ANNOYING DOOFUS.
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT I AM.
YEAH. YEAH.
YOU KNOW, I WAS REALLY LUCKY...
I SHOULD PROBABLY LEARN TO BE THANKFUL ...
...I COULD HARDLY SLEEP THAT NIGHT.
MAYBE I WAS LOSING MY MIND.
HEYA, KANOKO!
"ABANDON DESIRE; OBTAIN ENLIGHTEN-MENT!"

YOU WENT OUT WITH ARATA LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T YOU?!
PEACE
YES. WHAT IS IT ?
BESIDES, I THOUGHT YOU AND TSUBAME WERE DATING?
I HEARD HE TOOK YOU FOR A DRIVE.
IT'S AWFULLY CHEAP OF YOU TO KEEP SEEING ARATA, ISN'T IT?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO GO OUT WITH HIM?!
I JUST WANT ARATA TO WAKE UP!!
I mean, Arata's the one who's making the advances...
YOU JUST DON'T GIVE UP, HUH?
SO PLEASE! STOP MEETING ARATA! GIVE HIM UP! COLD TURKEY !!
Oh not again...
"Cheap?"
MAN, HE'S FULL OF VIGOR THIS MORNING!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY...
...THOUGH I RECKON ALL YOU REALLY WANT IS FOR KANOKO TO STAY SINGLE.
HO HO!!
WHOA HEY! LOOK! HE'S BLUSHING! A BLUSH TELLS NO LIES!
WHAT? NO, I...
HAHA HAH !!
I MUST NOT CONCERN MYSELF WITH THIS WORLD ...
We've gotta tell Arata about this!!
...HUH?
TSUBAME'S NOT HERE YET...
POP
HEY!
BOOM
AHHH
HEY!!!
SPIN
NO, NO...
NO DESIRE ... ENLIGHTENMENT ...
mutter

I DON'T CARE. I FORGIVE YOU.
HEY, HEY. STOP!
I WILL ...
Swallow these needles ...
MORON
SO...
LET'S BREAK UP.
HOW ABOUT IT?

FWOOSH
KANAOKO !! I BROKE OUR PROMISE !!
I AM SORRY!!
NEEDLES ...?!
Ow... I get it...
18 NEEDLES X 56 = 1000 + 8 NEEDLES
THAT AFTERNOON...
... TSUBAME FINALLY CAME TO SCHOOL...
... CARRYING A PLASTIC BAG FROM A 99 CENT STORE...
SHAKE SHAKE
I'M... I'M SO SORRY.
I WANTED TO CALL YOU... MY PHONE WAS B-B-BROKEN...
AND SO I... I...
Yow!
Ow.
OW!
LIKE PEOPLE USED TO SAY IF YOU BREAK A PROMISE YOU MUST SWALLOW A THOUSAND NEEDLES, RIGHT?
KIKI, PLEASE ...
WHERE SHALL WE START!?

IT REALLY ...
TSUBAME FINALLY MET HIS TRUE LOVE, ANYWAY.
...MAKES EVERYONE HAPPY.
IT'S FOR THE BEST...
I WILL HUMBLY WITHDRAW FROM THE MATTER...
MAYBE IT SHOULD HAVE STAYED LIKE THIS FROM THE BEGINNING.
AND ALL THE KIDS AT SCHOOL WON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO BOTHER ME ANYMORE...
SO... ANYWAY... SEE YOU LATER.
YEAH.
WHAT?!
DID KANOKO JUST BREAK UP WITH HIM?!
NO WAY!!
I was hoping we could make it a sextology...
What the heck?! Kanoko broke up with Tsubame?!
Is this the end of our epic Romance Quintology?!
THIS IS FOR THE BEST...
...I MEAN...
...TSUBAME IS SO INDECISIVE.
HE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO BREAK UP ON HIS OWN.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ?!
WAH!
TSU-BAME ?!
BLRRRRRR
"WELCOME TO ARATA TAKAMI'S "RADIO BUFFET!"
HEY, HEY THERE KIDS AND CADETS-- HOW YOU ALL DOIN'?
I SET MY ALARM FOR ARATA'S RADIO SHOW ...
ON...
RUB RUB

MAN.
THIS SUCKS.
I CAN'T... FEEL ANY-THING...
I DON'T EVEN TASTE MY FOOD ...
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH ME ?
THIS ISN'T EN-LIGHTEN-MENT...
I WAS THE ONE WHO LIED.
THE TRUTH IS...
I AM THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SWALLOWING A THOUSAND NEEDLES...
...THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO SAY TO HIM...

THOUGH LET ME TELL YOU— SHE'S INTERESTING. SERIOUSLY
SHE DOESN'T EVEN TREAT ME LIKE I'M A, WELL, A FAMOUS PERSON, OR ANYTHING.
SO THAT MAKES ME REALLY WANT TO GET TO KNOW HER.
THIS GIRL, SEE MAYBE SHE'S NOT, LIKE, A SUPER-MODEL OR ANY-THING.
HECK, SHE'S SO INNOCENT AND GIRLY I DON'T EVEN THINK SHE'S MET HER HORMONES YET.
WHA... WHAT?
SO I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYIN' TO SAY IS, YOU HAVE TO BE TRUE TO YOUR OWN FEELINGS, PEOPLE.
ONCE I LIKE SOMEONE, I DON'T GIVE UP ON THEM!
IT'S NOT A BAD THING TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.
I MEAN, I MET THIS GIRL. IT FELT LIKE DESTINY! I CAN'T JUST LET THAT GO!
ARATA...

WOW! I LOVE QUES-TIONS LIKE THIS!
"WHAT SHOULD I DO?"
ALL RIGHT, OUR FIRST E-MAIL IS FROM "CHIKUWA" ...
He's even got the radio voice...
MAN, HOW DOES HE KEEP IT UP?
HAHAHAH!
WHAT THE HECK'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
I'VE BEEN SERENADING A GIRL OF MY OWN LATELY...
"GOOD EVENING, ARATA," SHE WRITES "IT SEEMS THAT I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH MY FRIEND'S BOYFRIEND."
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TOO OVERJOYED TO HAVE ME AROUND
WHAT?
THUMP
SHE ENDED UP GOIN' OUT WITH SOME OTHER GUY
IN THE BEGINNING, YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
HEY... NOT ON THE RADIO... PLEASE!
NOW, THOUGH, THINGS ARE A BIT DIFFERENT
SHE SAID TO ME, "I BET YOU JUST LOVE ME 'CUZ YOU CAN'T HAVE ME" I GUESS I AIN'T COOL ENOUGH FOR HER
SO I'VE BEEN THINKIN' A LOT ABOUT THAT...

THE FEELINGS I HAVE WHEN I'M IN LOVE...
I WILL MAKE THEM MY OWN PERSONAL TREASURE.
AND SOME DAY...I WILL FIND A NEW PATH
...any other girl would pick Arata.
He's kinda dumb... and wimpy...
MAN, WHY DO I LIKE HIM, ANYWAY?

WHEN ARATA SAID THAT...
I FELT MY HEART SKIP A BEAT...
IT WAS SO...
...GOOD TO KNOW THAT HE WOULDN'T GIVE UP ON ME.
For a minute there I thought he wasn't going to say that...
AND, WELL, OF COURSE, WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS, YEAH?
EITHER WAY! I TELL YA, I'LL GET HER IN THE END!
I GUESS "DESTINY" IS...
...JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT DRAWS US IN.
IT WASN'T ALL ABOUT "DESTINY" AFTER ALL.
I SHOULD TELL HIM THAT...
AND I GUESS I CAN KEEP LIKING HIM.
...EVEN IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME ANYMORE...
I GUESS ...
...I STILL REALLY LIKE TSUBA-ME.

I'M SORRY I MISUNDERSTOOD YOU.
THAT GIRL-- SHE WAS THE "AGEMAKI" TSUBAME WAS LOOKING FOR, HUH?
I KINDA WONDER WHY YOU WERE KEEPING HER A SECRET FROM EVERYONE, THOUGH.
EVERYONE IS SO WORRIED...
I CAUSED BIG TROUBLE FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE ...
LIKE ...
...WHEN I REMEMBERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN MY PAST, IT WAS SUCH A SHOCK.
AND YET...
...ONCE I SETTLED EVERYTHING WITH KANOKO, IT FELT SO GREAT.

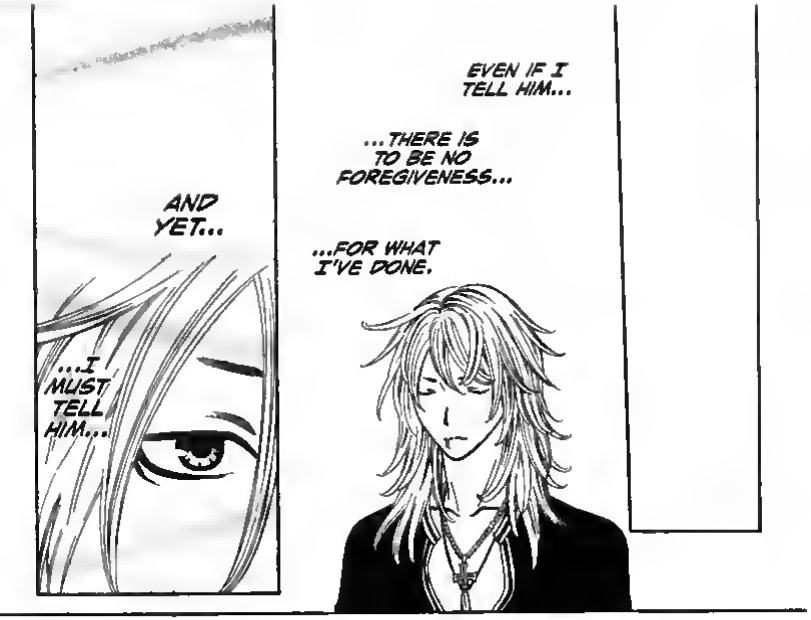
HEY, HEY!
HELLO! ♡
TA-DA!!
OOOH! THE BUNNIES LOVE THE ♡ FLOWERS ♡ ALREADY !!
munch munch munch
FLOWERS WARM PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
I SAW THESE FLOWERS IN THE SHOP AND I REALLY WANTED TO GIVE THEM TO YOU...
YAY! ♡
YOU FINALLY INVITED ME TO YOUR APARTMENT.

EVERYONE WOULD UNDERSTAND YOU, THAT WAY...
I REALLY, REALLY LIKE HIM...
MAN, OH MAN ...
WELL ...
...HE'S FINALLY DONE IT.

AND THEN, JUST LIKE THAT, MY BIRTHMARK VANISHED!
I WAS KINDA THINKING ...
...THAT BIRTHMARK WASN'T JUST A SYMBOL OF SOME PROMISE...
IT EXISTED SO THAT I COULD CLEAR UP THE MISUNDER-STANDINGS OF MY PAST LIFE.
YOU, TOO, MIYAKE. YOU MUST HAVE SOME TOUGH STORY TO TELL.
MAYBE ...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL HIM!
IT'D BE FOR THE BEST...

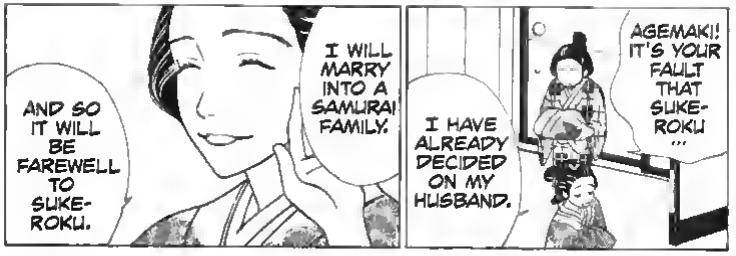
HERE...
I WANT YOU TO GIVE THIS TO AGEMAKI ...
THE LAST THING SUKE-ROKU EVER GAVE TO AGEMAKI ...
...WAS A KIMONO BEARING A BUTTER-FLY PATTERN AND A LETTER.
"PLEASE WEAR THIS KIMONO, AND DIE WITH ME AT THE TEMPLE AT MIDNIGHT."
THE INK HAD RUN WITH HIS TEARS.
HERE. THIS KIMONO.
YOU TAKE IT.
UTSUSEMI.

THAT MERCHANT, SUKEROKU...
HE GAMBLED ALL HIS MONEY AWAY..
...TRYING TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY FOR AGEMAKI'S DOWRY.
HE ENDED UP LOSING ALL THE MONEY IN HIS SHOP..
...AND NOW HIS FATHER HAS DISOWNED HIM...
I AM SO SORRY. I AM SUCH A FOOL.
HE IS NOW NO MORE THAN A LOST SOUL ...
I CANNOT BELIEVE IT CAME TO THIS ...


EVEN IF I TELL HIM...
...THERE IS TO BE NO FOREGIVENESS...
AND YET...
...FOR WHAT I'VE DONE.
...I MUST TELL HIM...

GROOOOAN
STOP BEIN' ALL DEPRESSED AND HAVE FUN WITH ME!!
TSUBAME!!
HEY, COME ONNNNNNN!!

I USED TO THINK HE WAS QUITE CHARMING ...
...NOW I KNOW HOW TRULY NAIVE HE WAS.
IT'S... IT'S JUST NOT FOR ME.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT MAN...
I...
I DON'T NEED IT. THIS IS A BAD OMEN.

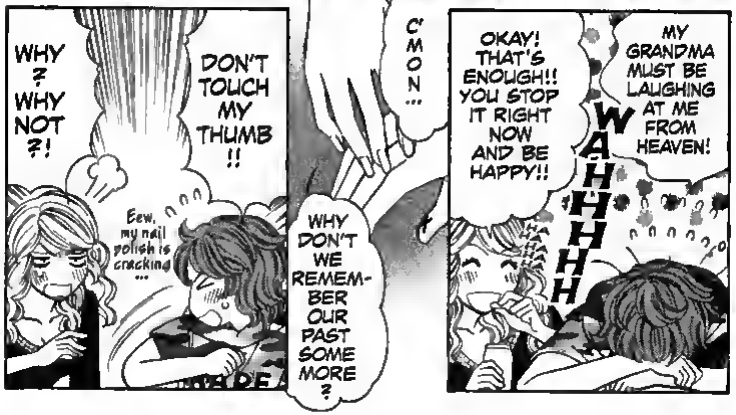

AND SO IT WILL BE FAREWELL TO SUKE-ROKU.
I WILL MARRY INTO A SAMURAI FAMILY.
I HAVE ALREADY DECIDED ON MY HUSBAND.
AGEMAKI! IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT SUKE-ROKU ...

TELL HIM I WISH HIM WELL.

NO!
NO... NO!
I THOUGHT YOU AND THAT KANOKO GIRL BROKE UP, HUH?
WE HAVE TO... WE CAN'T REMEMBER... WE HAVE TO LOVE EACH OTHER FOR WHO WE ARE NOW!
SO WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
OH. OH.
SO LET'S REMEMBER... WITH OUR BODIES!!
JO
OM
PAPE
BOOM
PAPE

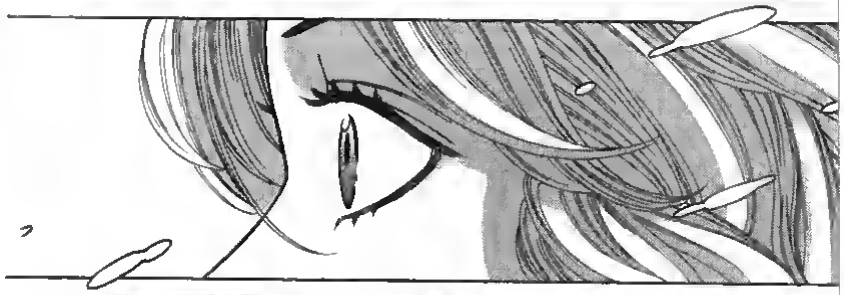
NOW, NOW! CHEER UP! YOU'RE NOT USELESS! USELESS IS... USELESS !!
pat
SOBB SOB
I'M SO SORRY... JUST LEAVE ME BE. I'M USELESS... I'M WORTHLESS...

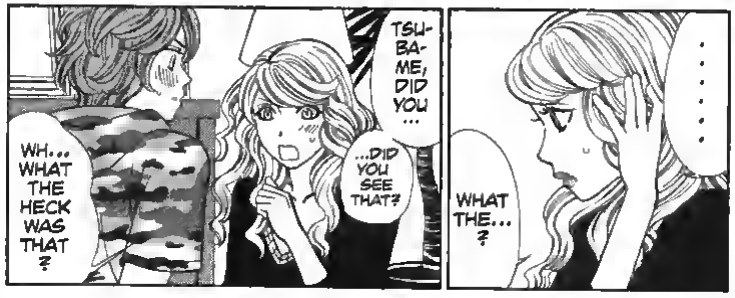
I WANT TO...
...I WANT TO BE SOME-BODY !!
I DON'T WANNA BE USE-LESS!
CALKKKKK
SUNFLOWER SEEDS


WHY ? WHY NOT ?!
DON'T TOUCH MY THUMB !!
Eew, my nail polish is cracking ...
C'MON...
WHY DON'T WE REMEM-BER OUR PAST SOME MORE ?
OKAY! THAT'S ENOUGH!! YOU STOP IT RIGHT NOW AND BE HAPPY!!
MY GRANDMA MUST BE LAUGHING AT ME FROM HEAVEN!
WAHHHHH

SHASHII
DOOSH

.....!!
HE-HEY..
NO... DON'T ...!!
AHHH
BAPE
NOW WE'RE FREE! WE CAN LOVE EACH OTHER ALL WE WANT !!
.....!!
YOU LOVED ME ENOUGH TO DIE WITH ME, RIGHT?
GOTCHA!!

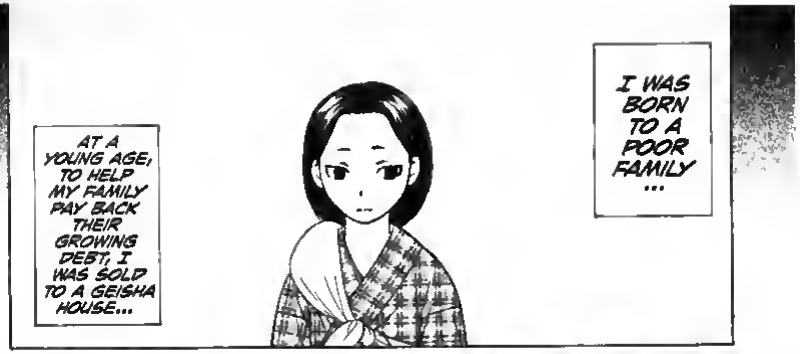




CHAPTER 16/END

CHAPTER 27
LAST NIGHT, I WENT TO SLEEP THINKING, "TOMORROW, I WILL CONFESS TO HIM AGAIN..."
AND YET...
...I HADN'T FULLY NOTICED THE WAY EVERYONE AROUND ME HAD BEEN CHANGING...

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 27
The Truth



I HATED MEN... I DESPISED THEM... SO I PLAYED MY SHAMISEN ALONE.
A GEISHA WITH-OUT CUS-TOMERS IS LITTLE MORE THAN HUNGRY.
YET, DESPITE THE SKILL OF MY PERFOR-MANCE, I WAS NOT POPULAR.
I WAS GIVEN A GEISHA NAME "UTSU-SEMI."

Character Guide: 024

Utsusemi

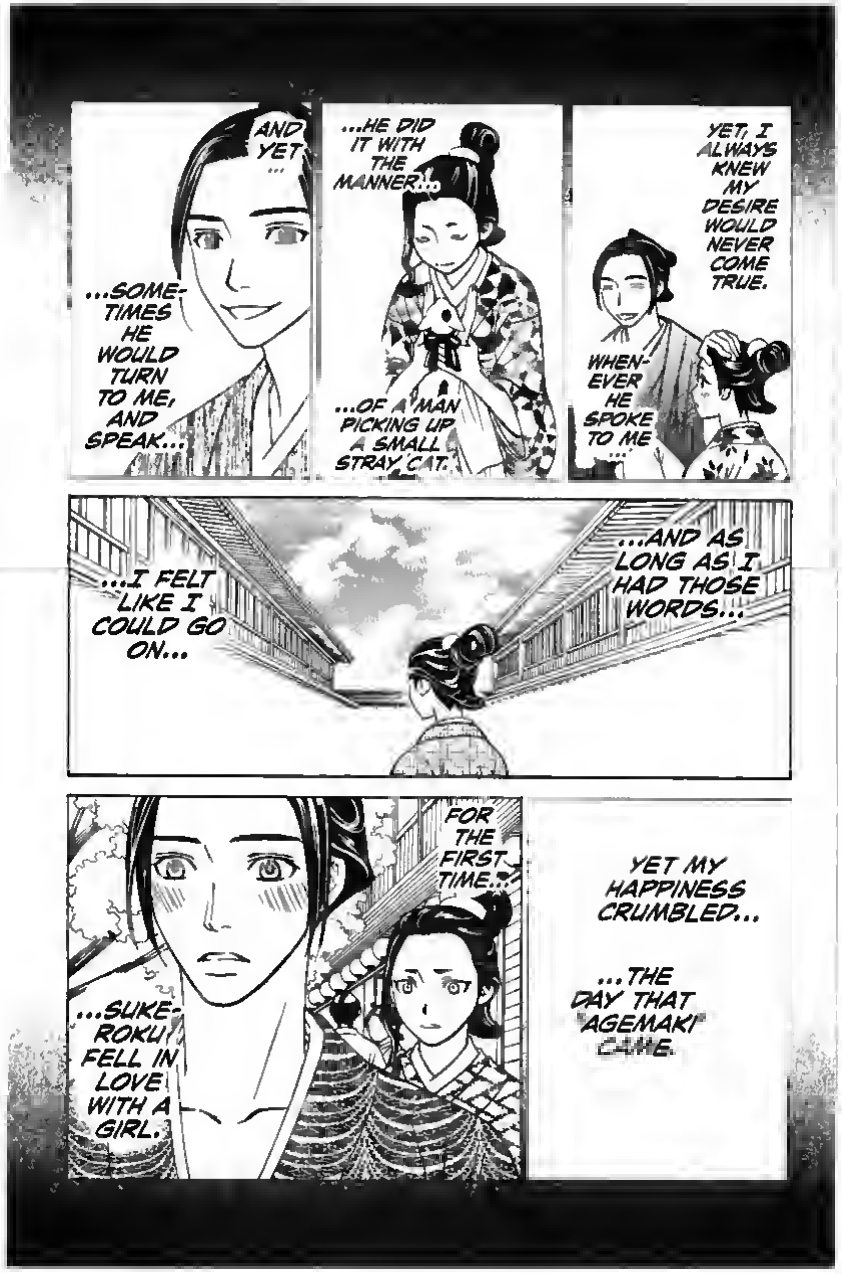
Birthday: 12/21
Blood Type: A

Mike's previous incarnation. She was never the right personality for a geisha. She fell into an unrequited love with Tsubame's previous incarnation, Sukeroku, though she never had the opportunity to confess her love. Sukeroku gave her a tortoiseshell cat, and she named it "Oroku."

SUKEROKU CAME TO OUR SHOP OFTEN...
...THOUGH HE SEEMED TO HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN THE GEISHAS THERE.
SOMETIMES, HE WOULD CALL ME, AND I WOULD SIT AND ENTERTAIN HIS PARTIES WITH MY SHAMISEN PLAYING.
SOME-HOW, I WAS ABLE TO MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE...
I FOUND MYSELF... ATTRACTED TO HIM.
HE ALWAYS WANTED PEOPLE'S ATTEN-TION.
HE WAS LIKE A PUPPY... HE HATED TO BE ALONE

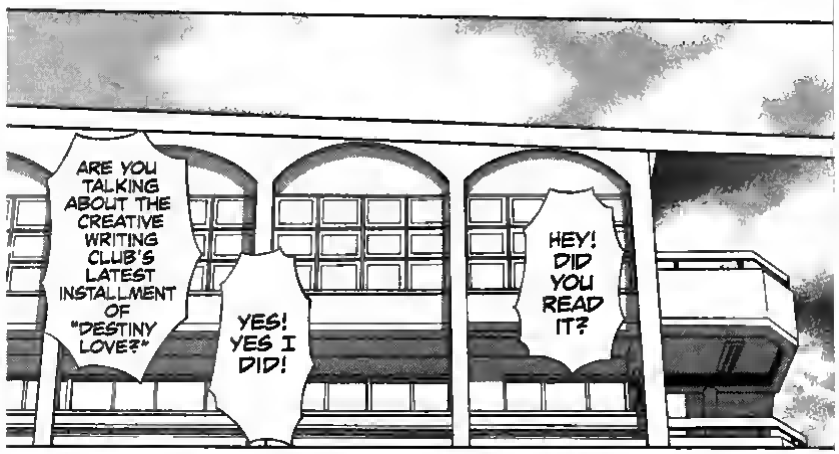
HEY, THERE.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING LATELY, WHERE THAT BEAUTIFUL MUSIC WAS COMING FROM.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE, ALL ALONE ?
AND THAT ...
...WAS HOW I MET SUKE-ROKU.

WHY COULDN'T I HAVE BEEN "AGEMAKI"?
EVEN IF I GET THE SAME TATTOO...
...HE WOULDN'T LOVE ME LIKE HE LOVED HER.
"LOOK, SUKEROKU! WE MATCH.
"WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PAIR OF BUTTERFLIES WE MAKE."
HE HAD BEEN SO PURE, AND SO PERFECT... AND SHE... STAINED HIM...
SO INNOCENT, SO VULNERABLE TO THE VIRUS OF LOVE, SUKEROKU WITHERED.


AND YET ...
...SOMETIMES HE WOULD TURN TO ME, AND SPEAK...
...HE DID IT WITH THE MANNER...
...OF A MAN PICKING UP A SMALL STRAY CAT.
YET, I ALWAYS KNEW MY DESIRE WOULD NEVER COME TRUE.
WHENEVER HE SPOKE TO ME ...
...I FELT LIKE I COULD GO ON...
...AND AS LONG AS I HAD THOSE WORDS...
...SUKEROKU FELL IN LOVE WITH A GIRL.
FOR THE FIRST TIME...
YET MY HAPPINESS CRUMBLED...
...THE DAY THAT "AGEMAKI" CAME.

GRRRR
THIS GUY IS SUCH A JERK !!
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE HEROINE !!
WHO THE HECK IS THIS NEW GIRL? SHE JUST CAME OUT OF NOWHERE !!
IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER!
THE GIRLS
WELL, WAIT... HE'S TSUBAME, RIGHT?
Destiny Love5
This is the dynamic, ever-evolving story of two high school students in LOVE.
(Based on real events)
TSUBAME SUCKS !!
I'VE GOT TO TELL HIM.
Even ↑ with DUST JACKET!
TSUBA-ME !!
KANOKO !!!
...O.H.
I HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT I STILL LIKE HIM...
...I HAVE NO REGRETS...

...THE SAME FACE...
I KNEW IT ALL ALONG...
...I COULDN'T BE HER...
...EVEN IF I HAD THE SAME NAME...
WHY...
...WHAT AM I DOING HERE?


ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE CREATIVE WRITING CLUB'S LATEST INSTALLMENT OF "DESTINY LOVE?"
YES! YES I DID!
HEY! DID YOU READ IT?

I HEAR THAT GUY GOT ANOTHER GIRL-FRIEND.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS CHEERING THEM ON.
I GUESS HE FIGURES HE CAN DO WHAT HE WANTS 'CUZ HE'S POPULAR.
WHAT A JERK-FACE !!
YOU HEAR THAT TSUBA-ME ?
YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT TOUCHING HER AND YOU'RE DEAD MEAT !!
GRRRRR GRRRRRR
HAH
HAH
THE ATTEN-TION TO REALITY IS ACTU-ALLY QUITE BREATH-TAKING !!
OH, NO, NO, I'M PRAC-TICALLY A JOUR-NALIST AT THIS POINT.
K-K-K-!... Did you WRITE some-thing?
NO, SEE, I--
WE'LL GET YOU FIXED UP IN A JIFF!
DON'T YOU WORRY, HIMEMIYA! THERE ARE PLENTY OF BETTER GUYS!
I KNOW! I'LL CALL HIM!!
YOU... FOOLS!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TALK TO TSUBAME ?
SO... WAIT... WHAT THE... ?

OH!!
H-- HELLO!
H--
HEY! ... HELLO!
GRR!
HEY, IS THAT... IS THAT KANOKO ? AND TSUBAME !!
UM... SO...
I, UH--
GASP
GRRR
KANOKO, STAY AWAY FROM THIS CREEP !!
WE'RE NOT GONNA LET HIM HURT YOU ANY MORE !!
GRR
WHA-- ?
grab
NO! NO! YOU STAY AWAY FROM HER !!

NO! I WAS CALLING TSUBAME.
EVEN NOW, YOU'RE TRYING TO CALL HIM, AREN'T YOU?
YOU HAVE AN ATTITUDE PROBLEM, GIRL!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE HIM SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
HEY, EVEN I WAS SURPRISED, OKAY?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?
I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU AND HE BROKE UP?
TSUBAME? WHY?
I guess everyone knows now, huh?
.....!
YOU'LL JUST END UP HURTING HIM! AND HE HAS ANOTHER GIRLFRIEND NOW! SO YOU SHOULD--
OH? IS THERE SOME KIND OF LINGERING ATTACHMENT? SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS?
YOU KNOW, THAT'S NOT GOOD! NOT AT ALL!

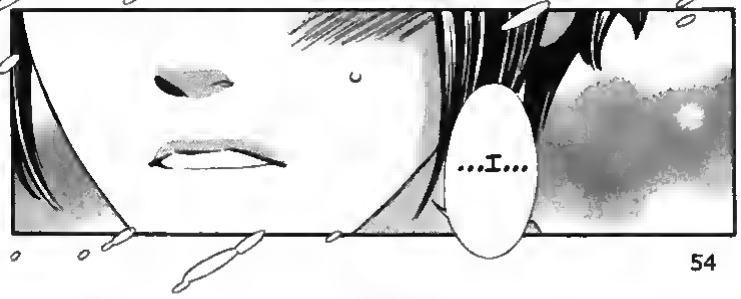
SO, I GUESS HE'S NOT EVEN CARRYING HIS PHONE...
YEAH... I GUESS IT'S STILL BROKEN ...
"...MY PHONE WAS S-S-BROKEN ..."
HUH?
HE'S NOT PICKING UP.
TAIJU!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING?
THANKS TO YOU, ARATA'S FANS ARE GOING CRAZY RIGHT NOW!
I HEARD ARATA'S RADIO SHOW LAST NIGHT!

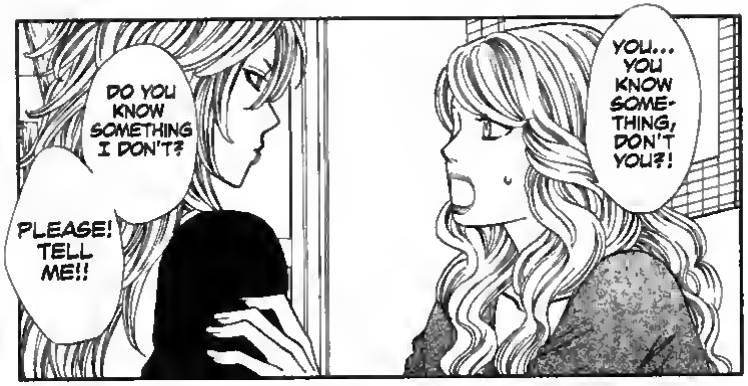
STOMP STOMP STOMP
I MEAN ...
WHAT-EVER! LEAVE ME ALONE !!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. I...
...I MADE HER CRY.
AW MAN ...
SNOOOSH

WHY DO I ALWAYS SAY THINGS LIKE THAT TO HER?
I WONDER ...
...THAT I MADE FRIENDS BACK DURING THE MARATHON DAY.
...IT WAS THANK'S TO HER...
THEN AGAIN ...

WHY DO YOU HATE ME SO MUCH?
WHY THE HECK ARE YOU ALWAYS SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT TO ME?

WHO CAN I GO OUT WITH, HUH?
OR DO YOU JUST WANT ME TO NOT LIKE ANYONE ?


...I...

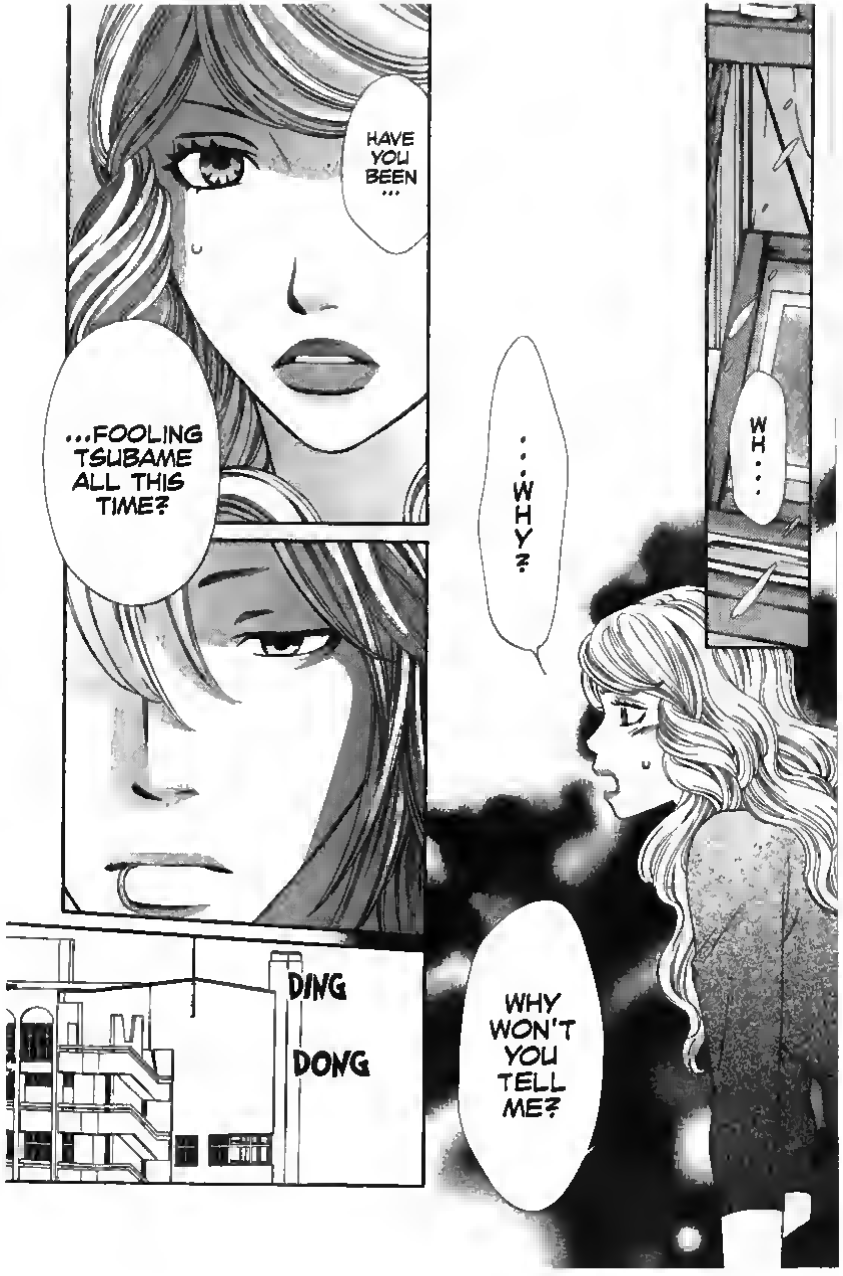

YOU... YOU KNOW SOME-THING, DON'T YOU?!
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T?
PLEASE! TELL ME!!

YES.
SUKE-ROKU DIDN'T DIE WITH AGE-MAKI ...
ANOTHER MAN OFFERED HIMSELF TO AGEMAKI THAT DAY.
SHE BROKE HER PROMISE TO SUKE-ROKU.
WHY ?!
TSUBAME... TSUBAME SAYS HE DIED WITH AGEMAKI!

EVERY TIME I LOOK AT HER... I GET SO EDGY..
...I TURN INTO SUCH A JERK...
...HEY.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY MEMORIES.

LIKE, IN THE "PAST LIFE," I WAS AGEMAKI, RIGHT?
AND I MADE A PROMISE WITH SUKE-ROKU ...
YET... I DIDN'T DIE WITH SUKEROKU.

HEY, KANOKO ...
KYOZOU!!
...FOR, UH...
OH, I JUST ...
...WANTED TO, UH, APOLOGIZE...
What do you have to say now?
GRRRRR
WHAT?
TSUBAME!!
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.


WH...
...WHY?
HAVE YOU BEEN ...
...FOOLING TSUBAME ALL THIS TIME?
DING
DONG
WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME?

DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH KANOKO !!
EEW, SHE'S, LIKE, OLD.
TSUBA-ME, SHE'S OLD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR BIG SISTER!
HEY! LOOK OVER THERE! YOU THINK THAT'S TSUBAME'S NEW GIRLFRIEND ?
OH MY GOD !
SHE'S WAITING AT THE SCHOOL GATE ...
KANOKO ...
WHAT DO I DO...
CUT IT OUT, PEOPLE !
.....
LET'S FINISH THIS.
COME ON.
LET'S TALK.

ME, TOO.
!
THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
TSU-BA-ME...
OH...

IF I LIKE HIM, I HAVE TO DO WHAT HE SAYS!
SEE YA!!
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY...
THINK ABOUT IT!
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THE CHANGE.
SUDDENLY, IT WASN'T ABOUT LOOKING OUT FOR ARATA.
ALL I WANT NOW IS TO KEEP HER FROM ANYONE ELSE.
IT'S BECAUSE, DEEP IN HER HEART...
...THERE'S NO ROOM FOR ME.
WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY?
I HAD NO IDEA.

KANOKO!
.....OKAY.
OH, BE QUIET.
YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAP--
YOU SHOULDN'T GO WITH HIM!
I LIKE HIM, OKAY?

YOU KNOW...
WHEN I WAS REALLY LITTLE...
...I LOST EVERYONE WHO LOVED ME.
I KNEW THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE SOMEONE WAITING FOR ME.
I BECAME TOTALLY EMPTY ...
EVER SINCE THEN...
...I'VE LIVED JUST TO FIND HER.
THAT WAS WHEN I REMEMBERED MY PROMISE WITH "AGEMAKI."

I GUESS ...
...THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL "LOVE."
TO THE PLACE WE FIRST MET.
I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME.
.....
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

AT THAT TIME...
...SHE HAD ALREADY SAVED ME.
SO... I CAN'T...
...I CAN'T KEEP THE PROMISE...

I WAS SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU, MISAKI ...
...I'M SO GRATEFUL ...
AND YET...
UNTIL NOW, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE ...
AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT IF I FOUND MY "AGEMAKI" ...
...MY LONE-LINESS WOULD VANISH ...
AT THE TIME I MET YOU...
...I WASN'T ALONE ANYMORE.

LET US REMEMBER ...
... WHEN WE LIVED HERE, AGES AGO...

THIS IS IT.
DO YOU REMEMBER ?
IT LOOKS A LOT DIFFERENT, NOW.
THIS IS IT.
THIS IS WHERE WE FIRST MET.
LET'S REMEMBER EVERYTHING !!
.....!
RIGHT HERE. LET'S JOIN THUMBS.

I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
IT'S IMPORTANT.
HUH?
CAN YOU COME HERE?
IT'S EARLY. I'M SORRY.
MIYAKE...?
...HUH?
I JUST GOT A PHONE CALL FROM MISAKI.
TSUBAME AND MISAKI ARE COMING.
AND MISAKI IS COMING, TOO?
"IT'S IMPORTANT?"
GOOD ... MORNING ...

BRRRR
WAH
WHA--?
brr-rrr-rrr-ring!
brr-rrr-rrr-ring!
HIMEMIYA ARE YOU AWAKE?
Mika--
I... AM... NOW.

TSU-BAME.
YOU SAID...
THAT YOU DIED WITH AGEMAKI IN THE "PAST LIFE," YES?
YEAH...
I MEAN, THAT'S RIGHT... ISN'T IT?
NO, IT'S NOT.
I DIDN'T DIE WITH YOU, TSUBAME.
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I THOUGHT WE... DIDN'T WE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OF COURSE! ME AND AGEMAKI WERE... IN... LOVE...

WE WERE BURNING DOWN THAT HIGHWAY ALL NIGHT...
I think I'm getting old...
ME AND TSUBAME DROVE DOWN TO KYOTO LAST NIGHT--
FWAP
YEAH.
I DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP ...
Come in.
YOU... LOOK REALLY TIRED...
GOOD... MORNING, TSUBAME.
.....
DON'T WORRY. WE JUST WENT TO THE PLACE WHERE WE MET. IN THE PAST LIFE.
YOU WENT TO... KYOTO?
Agemaki-san!!
.....
I HAVE NO IDEA, MIKE.
YEAH.
NOW, TELL US YOUR STORY, MIYAKE ...
... BEFORE I COL-LAPSE.

IT WAS ME.
CHAPTER 21/END

THEN... THEN...
...NO, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I DID MEET AGEMAKI THAT NIGHT.
YOU... DIDN'T...?
I DIDN'T GO TO MEET YOU THAT NIGHT, TSUBAME...
THOUGH IT WAS DARK I COULD TELL SHE WAS WEARING THE KIMONO I HAD SENT HER...
...AND I COULD SEE THE TATTOO ON HER THUMB...
IF THAT WASN'T AGEMAKI, WHO WAS IT?!
OH NO...
TSU-BAME...
...THAT NIGHT...
...THAT NIGHT...
...THE ONE WHO YOU MET...
MY APOLO-GIES...

INFINITY
CHAPTER 26
Best Buddies

WHAT...?
I AM THE REINCARNATION OF UTSUSEMI.
SUKEROKU HAD PAID A LESSER GIRL TO LOOK AFTER AGEMAKI. THAT GIRL'S NAME WAS UTSUSEMI.
UN-LESS ...
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SAYING ?
IT WAS... IT WAS AGEMAKI WHO CAME TO THE TEMPLE THAT DAY.
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN YOU, MIKE-- UNLESS... UNLESS...

Character Guide. #25

Masanaga Sakakibara

Birthday: 8/10

Blood Type. A

Arata's past incarnation.
He fell in love with Kanoko's past incarnation, Agemaki; he proposed to her, and was refused. He taught Agemaki the secret of the butterfly tattoo... and that might have doomed his love for her.

I LAMENTED MY LACK OF TALENT.
I HAD NO FUTURE.
MY DEBTS PILED UP, AND THINGS GOT WORSE AND WORSE. I WOULD HAVE HAD TO WORK THE REST OF MY LIFE.
...THEY WERE GOING TO SEND ME TO... ANOTHER PLACE. SO I COULD PAY BACK MY DEBTS.
MIKE! YOU AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER !!
WHY THE HECK HAVEN'T YOU EVER TOLD ME ABOUT THIS UNTIL NOW?
WHAT THE HECK, MAN ?!
I THOUGHT ... I WAS BETTER OFF DEAD.
AND I THOUGHT... IF I COULD DIE AS AGEMAKI ...

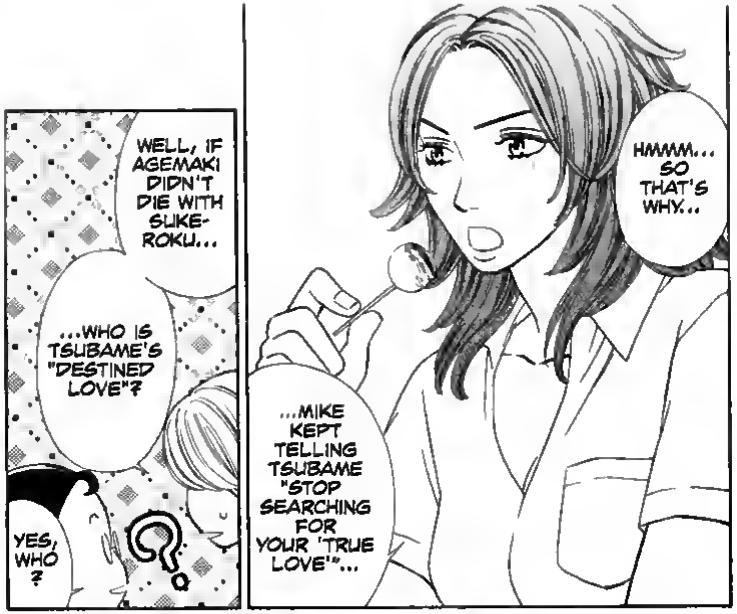
WH-- WHY ?
.....
YEAH. THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED UTSU-SEMI.
MIKE... THAT WAS... YOU... ?
MIKE'S PAST LIFE...
...HE WAS THE GEISHA, UTSU-SEMI ...
...DIE WITH ME, INSTEAD OF AGEMAKI?
WHY WOULD UTSU-SEMI...
I DON'T GET IT!!
BACK THEN, ...I...
...HAD BEEN DOOMED. I WAS GOING TO LOSE MY POSITION AT THE GEISHA HOUSE...

I KNOW THE TRUTH !!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!!
TSUBA-ME ...
HOW DARE YOU IMITATE ME!
MIYAKE...
stomp stomp
WAI--
SLAM
HOW DARE YOU TRICK HIM LIKE THAT.

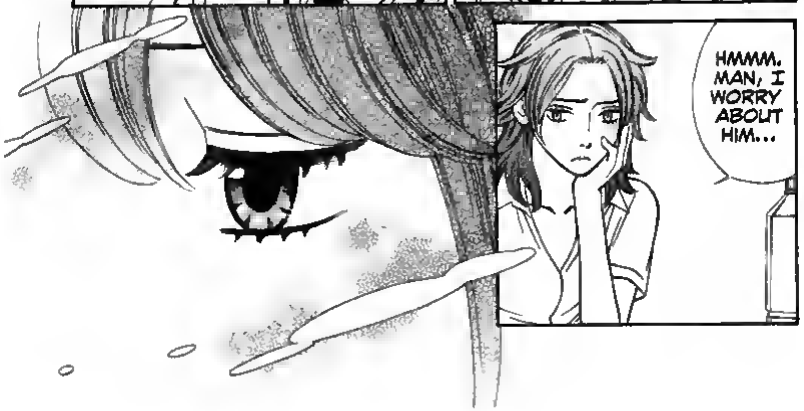
EVEN WHEN WE JOINED THUMBS... EVEN WHEN I WANTED TO REMEMBER ABOUT AGEMAKI...
...YOU KNEW EVERYTHING ALL ALONG!!
I'M ... SORRY ...
.....
LIAR!!

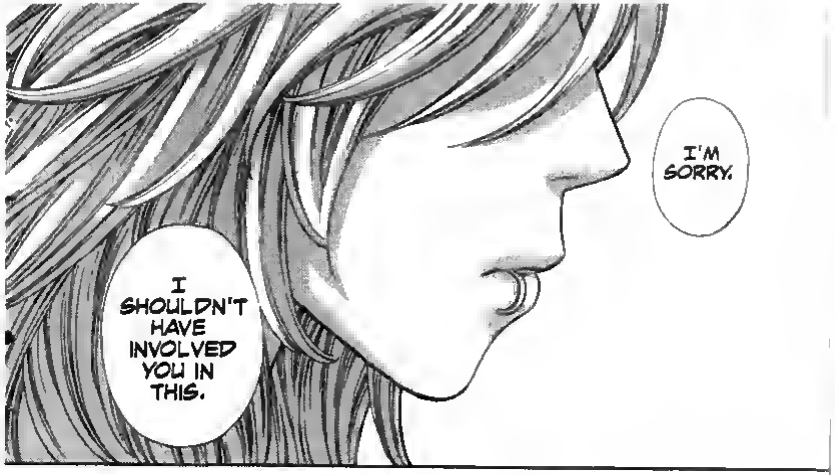
SEE ...
SLAM
HE'S IN LOVE WITH ME. HE SAID SO!
WHOOM
YOU TWO SHOULD BE HEADING HOME.
WHAT THE ...
She is so MEAN !!
...HECK ?!
MIYAKE...
ARE YOU... ALL RIGHT ?

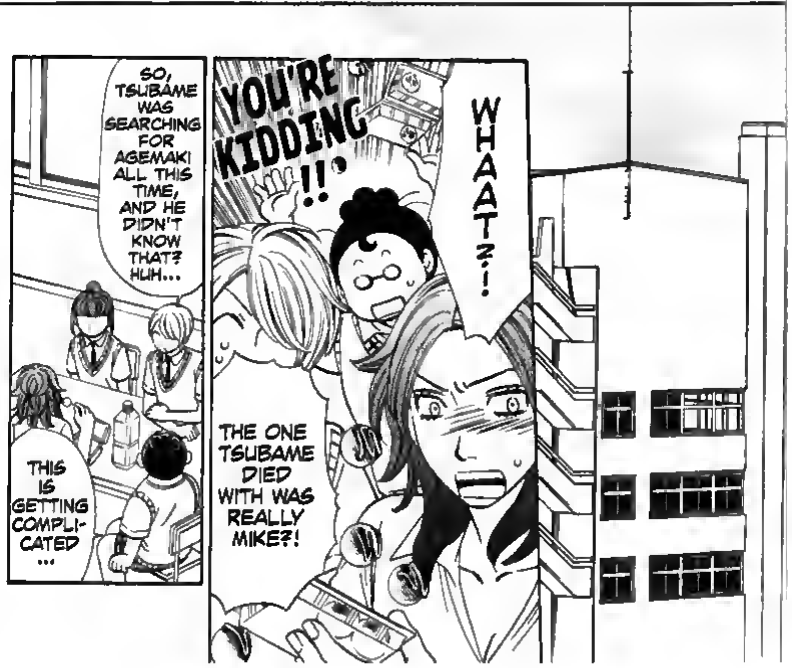
HE ONLY DIED BECAUSE OF YOU-- BECAUSE YOU WENT THERE!
AND HE THOUGHT YOU WERE ME!!
THAT, AND...
...IF "AGEMAKI" HADN'T SHOWN UP AT THAT PLACE, SUKEROKU WOULDN'T HAVE DIED!!
MAYBE YOU THOUGHT AGEMAKI HAD GIVEN UP ON SUKEROKU...
THERE WAS JUST... NOTHING ELSE SHE COULD HAVE DONE.
SHOOO
...THERE'S NO USE FALLING IN LOVE WITH TSUBAME.
YOU...
YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY IT LIKE THAT !!
HEY!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS! DON'T YOU REALIZE ?!
YOU TWO HAVE THE BIRTH-MARKS, TOO ?


HMMM... SO THAT'S WHY...
...MIKE KEPT TELLING TSUBAME "STOP SEARCHING FOR YOUR 'TRUE LOVE'"...
WELL, IF AGEMAKI DIDN'T DIE WITH SUKE-ROKU...
...WHO IS TSUBAME'S "DESTINED LOVE"?
YES, WHO?

KANOKO, WHAT'S BEEN UP WITH TSUBAME SINCE THEN?
I DON'T KNOW.
HE ISN'T EVEN COMING TO SCHOOL...


HMMM. MAN, I WORRY ABOUT HIM...

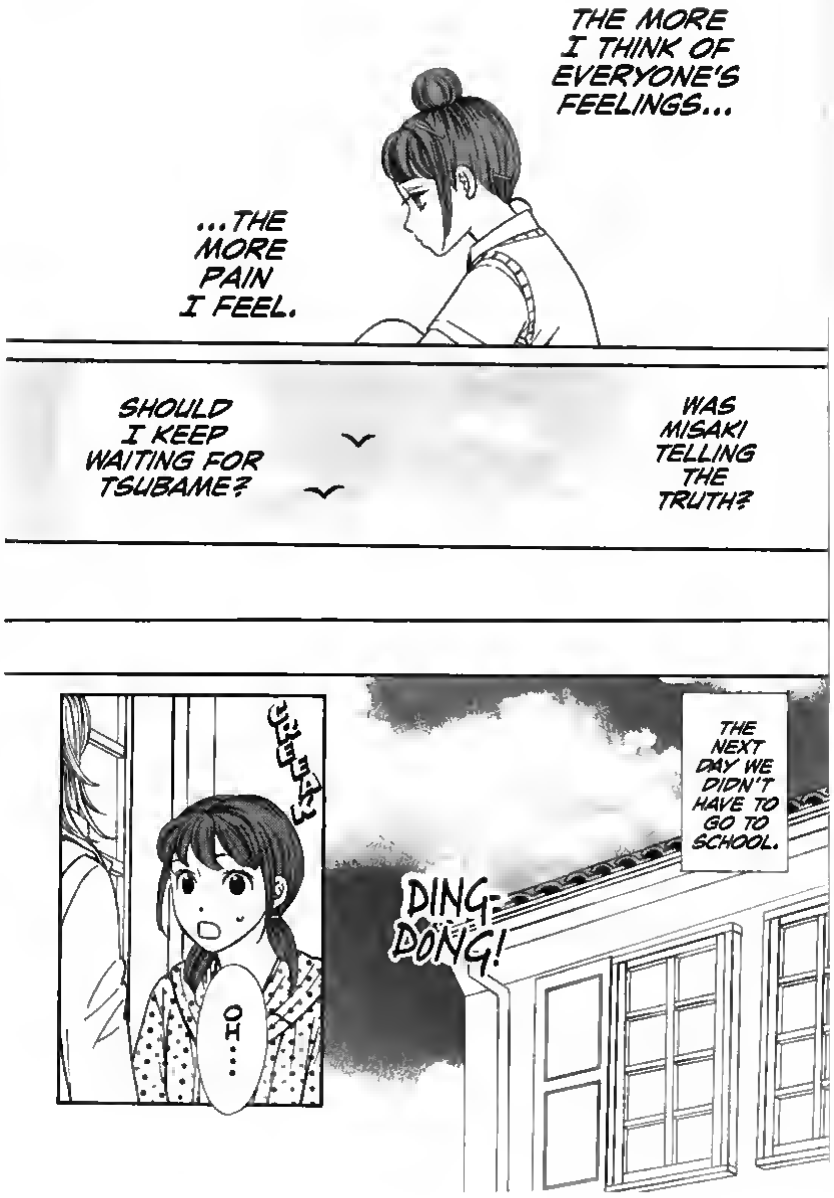

I'M SORRY.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE INVOLVED YOU IN THIS.


SO, TSUBAME WAS SEARCHING FOR AGEMAKI ALL THIS TIME, AND HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT? HUH...
THIS IS GETTING COMPLI-CATED...
YOU'RE KIDDING!!
WHAAT?!
THE ONE TSUBAME DIED WITH WAS REALLY MIKE?!

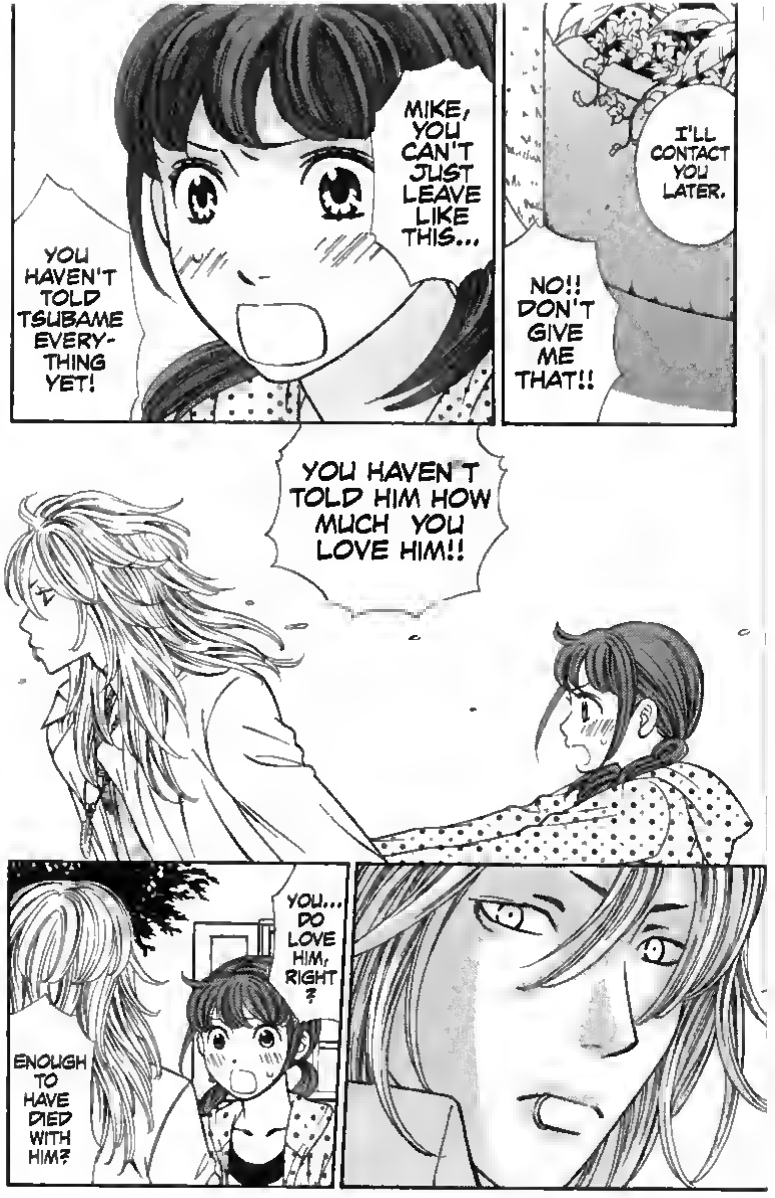
WHEN MIKE AND TSUBAME FIRST MET...
I DIDN'T EVEN LOVE HIM THE WAY UTSUSEMI LOVED SUKEROKU. THAT MAKES ME SO MUCH MORE TERRIBLE ...
...MAYBE MIKE THOUGHT HE WAS AGEMAKI.
TSUBAME BELIEVED MIKE...
I WONDER HOW HE FELT...
...WHEN HE REMEMBERED THE "PAST LIFE", AND REALIZED THE TRUTH...
"Y O U."
"THERE'S NO USE FALLING IN LOVE WITH TSUBAME."
...FOR THE LONGEST TIME...

I GUESS ...
...ALL ALONG, MIKE LIKED TSUBAME...
NOWADAYS PARENTS NEVER HAVE TO SELL THEIR CHILDREN...
EVERY TIME I REMEMBER THE "PAST LIFE," I CAN FEEL HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS.
BACK THEN, MIKE PRETENDED TO BE "AGEMAKI," AND HE DIED WITH TSUBAME.
AND, IN THE SAME WAY, I TRICKED TSUCHIYA INTO DYING WITH ME...

GOOD MORNING, MIKE.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU CALLED ME ALL OF A SUDDEN.
YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING FOR ME?
HAVE YOU SEEN TSUBAME TODAY?
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD WATCH THESE GUYS FOR A LITTLE BIT.
I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE ELSE WITH THEM.
MIKE'S RABBITS...
WH--
WHY?
HEY!
CHOOM
CHOOM
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
What's with the suitcase, buster?!
GRABBBB
YOU WEREN'T THINKING OF, UM, LEAVING TOWN, WERE YOU?


THE MORE I THINK OF EVERYONE'S FEELINGS...
...THE MORE PAIN I FEEL.
SHOULD I KEEP WAITING FOR TSUBAME?
WAS MISAKI TELLING THE TRUTH?
THE NEXT DAY WE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL.
DING-DONG!
OH...

FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I'VE BEEN PRETENDING THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE MY SIN.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE !!
IT'S TOO LATE.
THE CHANCE HAS PASSED.
.....
BACK THEN ...
AND YET ...
I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT IT WAS ALL AGEMAKI'S FAULT. I CONVINCED MYSELF TO HATE HER, AND BELIEVED I WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING.
I BELIEVED I EXISTED TO KEEP TSUBAME FROM BECOMING "UNHAPPY"...
EVEN THEN, I WAS WRONG.
...I WAS SO HAPPY.


MIKE, YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE LIKE THIS...
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD TSUBAME EVERY-THING YET!
I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER.
NO!! DON'T GIVE ME THAT!!
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIM HOW MUCH YOU LOVE HIM!!
YOU... DO LOVE HIM, RIGHT?
ENOUGH TO HAVE DIED WITH HIM?

TSU-BA-ME!!
MAYU...
...NO, SHE'S AT WORK...
A HA.
THAT'S RIGHT...
GET A NEW PHONE ALREADY!!
WHY THE HECK ISN'T HE HOME?!
Ding-Dong DiNG-DoNG DINGDONG
OPEN UP!!
COME ON!!!
Are you two fighting?

Whoever
Gotcha!!!!
FOUND YOU!!
Whoever
HAH!

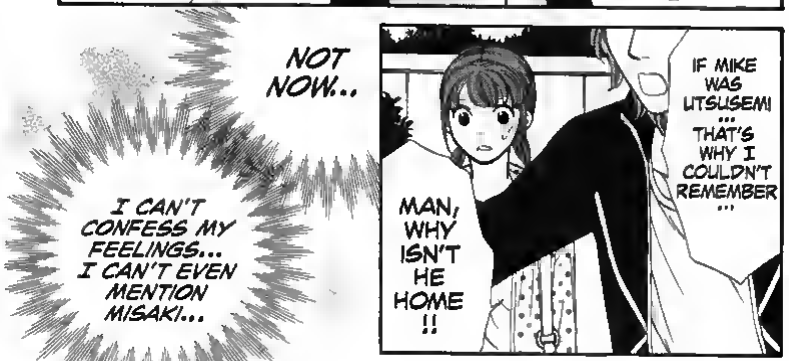
SO HAPPY...
...TO BE ABLE TO DIE IN SUKEROKU'S ARMS...
THIS IS MY SIN...
WHAT DO I DO?
MIKE IS GOING TO LEAVE... FOREVER!!

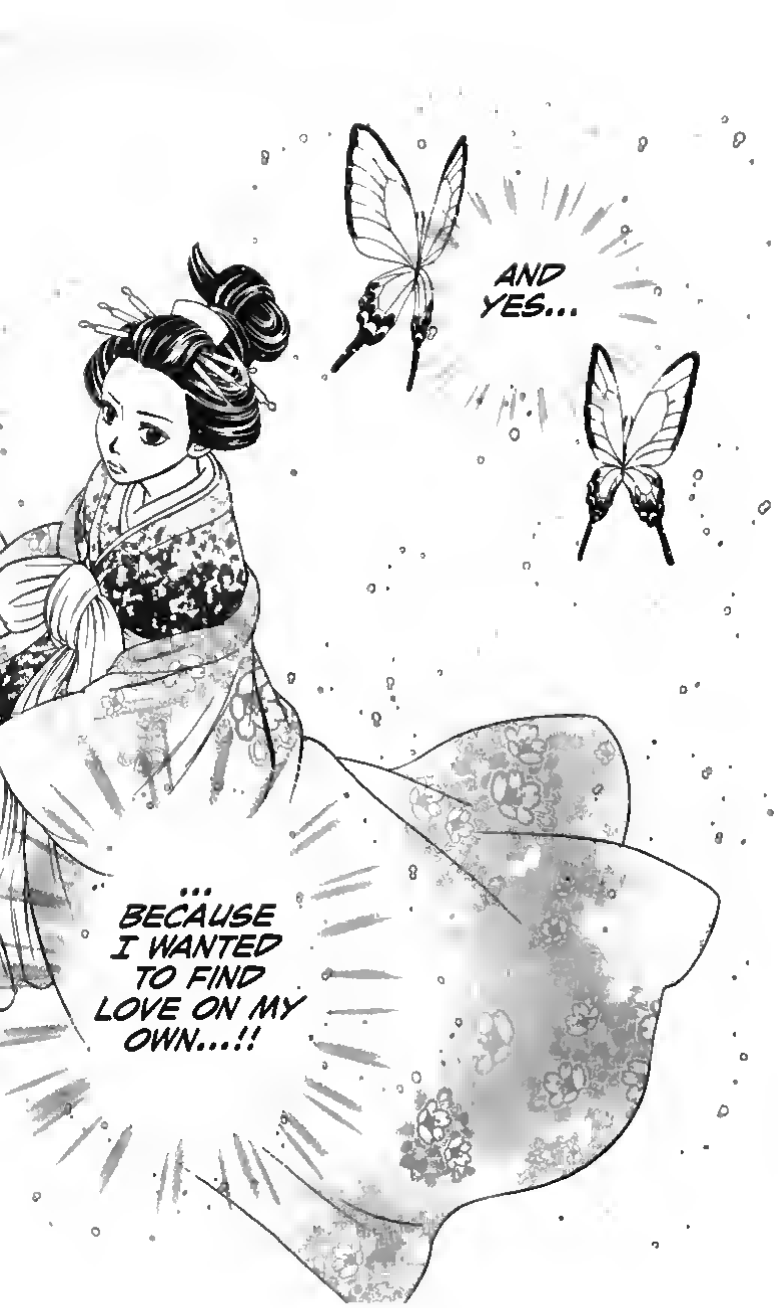
I WILL HELP YOU REMEMBER.
I WILL LEND YOU MY THUMB.
TSUBAME.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO NOW ...
SHOOOM
KANOKO ...
EVEN IF WE TOUCH OUR THUMBS ...
...I WILL ONLY REMEMBER MY OWN MEMORIES.

WHAM WHAM
He won't open the window...
...his bunnies are gone.
KANOKO, THERE'S SOMETHIN' WRONG! MIKE'S...
Oh man
HE CAME OUT WITH A SUIT-CASE ...
...I don't know.

K... KA...
... KANOKO ...

I...
...I WANT TO REMEMBER THE "PAST LIFE" ...ONE MORE TIME.
ALL THIS TIME, I JUST TRIED TO REMEMBER AGEMAKI ...


NOT NOW...
I CAN'T CONFESS MY FEELINGS... I CAN'T EVEN MENTION MISAKI...
MAN, WHY ISN'T HE HOME !!
IF MIKE WAS UTSUSEMI ... THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T REMEMBER ...


AND YES...
...BECAUSE I WANTED TO FIND LOVE ON MY OWN...!!

...I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE INSIDE MY OWN HEART...
...AND YET...
I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THE REAL TSUBAME'S "MEMORIES," OR THOUGHTS...
...I CHOSE TO PUT THIS BUTTERFLY INTO MY THUMB...
I WILL SEE WHY...
YES, YES...
...IT'S BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE "FREE"...

NOW BOARDING FOR JNA FLIGHT 077 FOR CHITOSE ...
jooom
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT THE--?
MY THUMB ... IT BURNS ...
POP

KANOKO !!
blink
MIKE ...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE WENT ?

YOU FOOL !!
DON'T RUN AWAY FROM ME!!
MIKE...!
I REMEMBERED EVERYTHING. ABOUT UTSUSEMI..
KANOKO HELPED ME!!
SO YOU DID.
WELL. I SUPPOSE YOU HATE ME, THEN?

OH, THE PENDANT IS STUCK ...
POP
IT DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE HERE.
BECAUSE I MADE IT FOR YOU.

...IT WAS NOBODY'S FAULT.
WHEN WE DIED ...
...I KNEW, DEEP DOWN, THAT AGEMAKI WASN'T COMING...
THE TRUTH IS...
...BACK THEN...
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS "UTSUSEMI" WHO SHOWED UP...
I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO ACKNOW-LEDGE IT...
...I WAS PREPARED TO BELIEVE IT WAS AGEMAKI.
I WANTED TO BELIEVE. I TOLD MYSELF, "SHE'LL BE HERE."

WHAT!!
YOU SHOULD HATE ME!!
What the heck...
Hmm, which one of us was worse?
I'M PRETTY SURE I WAS A LOUSIER PERSON, THOUGH?
.....
Help me here...
I MEAN, YOU DID A PRETTY TERRIBLE THING...
....WAS TO NEVER SAY ANYTHING TO ME...
I GUESS THE WORST THING YOU DID, MIKE...
...TO SUFFER SO LONG, ALONE.

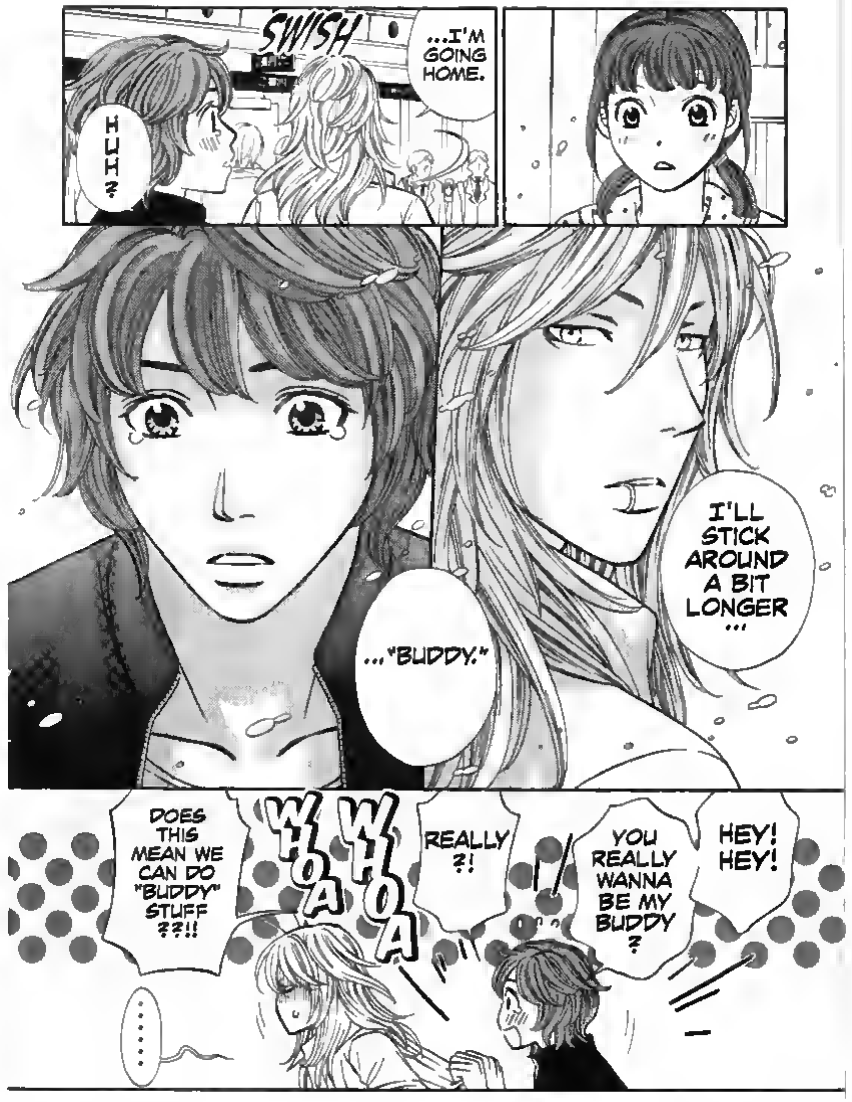
ALL THIS TIME, I KEPT THINKING ...
...YOU WERE MY BEST BUDDY...
I MUST HAVE REALLY ...
...BEEN A PAIN.
YOU SHOULDA JUST TOLD ME, THOUGH.
I'M SO SORRY.

SO WE'RE BOTH GUILTY OF THE SAME CRIME.
...YOU STILL STUCK BY ME.
AND EVEN AFTER BEING REBORN LIKE THIS...
I'M THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED SUICIDE IN THE FIRST PLACE...
REALLY, THOUGH, I WAS WAY WORSE...
THAT YOU WERE SUFFERING ...
AND I JUST... I HAD NO IDEA, ALL THIS TIME... THAT YOU KNEW THE TRUTH...

I CAN'T LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS.
THAT'S JUST WHO YOU ARE.

JUST... GO ANY-WHERE YOU CAN'T SEE MY FACE.
Go to Hokkaido! Go to Tasmania! Anywhere!!
MIKE! YOU SHOULD GO! GO WHEREVER YOU WANT! BE FREE!
YOU MUST HATE ME!!
I'M SO SORRY I'M A MORON.
I JUST ...
YOU REALLY ARE A MORON.

KANOKO...
STOMP STOMP
GRRR
WHERE'S MIKE? DID YOU FIND HIM?
OVER... THERE.
ARE HE AND TSUBAME FIGHTING ?!
GYAA!!!!
NO, THEY JUST MADE UP.
MIKE...
...
We will describe Mike's joy as "blank-faced" !!
THAT'S GOOD!! I thought it was over there for a second...
HOHOHO...
HIME-MIYA.
I'M SO GLAD WE MADE IT IN TIME.
ARE YOU...
...SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO CONFESS YOUR LOVE TO HIM?


SWISH
...I'M GOING HOME.
HUH?
I'LL STICK AROUND A BIT LONGER...
..."BUDDY."
DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN DO "BUDDY" STUFF ??!!
WHOA WHOA
REALLY ?!
YOU REALLY WANNA BE MY BUDDY ?
HEY! HEY!
.....

HEY, TAIJU ...
HAVE YOU SEEN KANOKO LATELY?
HOW'S SHE DOIN'?
.....
NO...!!
...I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW!!
YES! Now that you've made up, let's CELELBRATE-- Your treat!!
Sure! ...huh?

I GUESS THAT'S WHY...
...I WAS REBORN ...
...TO LOVE SOMEONE ELSE.
I DON'T NEED TO.
NOT ANY-MORE.
WAIT, DOES THAT MEAN ...
...MAYU?!
SLOOOOS

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 29
One Butterfly Goes, the Other Stays

SOME-THIN' WRONG?
HM?
"OBSESSED WITH THE PAST," HUH?
THE ONLY PERSON WHO HASN'T FIGURED IT OUT ...
...IS KANOKO.
CHAPTER 28/END

WHEN KANOKO CALLED ME I WAS REALLY SCARED YOU WERE GONNA GO!!
I'M SO GLAD YOU GUYS MADE UP!
MAYU! I'M HOME !!
TSUBAME AND MIKE GOT OVER THEIR PAST LIFE DIFFER-ENCES ...
...AND WENT BACK TO BEING BEST FRIENDS.
I'M SORRY TO HAVE WORRIED YOU, MAYU ...
BUNNY !!!!
SO... DO YOU FEEL ALL BETTER NOW?
KICK KICK
WEL-COME BACK!!
Oho! You brought Miyake-kun with you!! ♡

Character Guide #26

Agemaki (Misaki)

Birthday: 6/11
Blood Type: A

Misaki's previous incarnation.
She made a promise to die with Sukeroku.
She was very, very popular with men, and capable of drawing in high-class clients and marriage offers. So, many of the other girls disliked her. She lived very freely, and tried her best.

YES, I ALMOST FORGOT ...
I WANTED TO CONFESS TO TSUBAME AGAIN...
THIS MIGHT BE MY CHANCE ...
WHOA.
I HAVE TO SAY IT!!
TSU-BAME --
KA-NOKO --
I'M STILL IN LOVE WITH YOU!

WHA ...
WAIT, IS THIS ...
SEE, THERE IS ONE PLACE IN JAPAN WHERE WE CAN SEE WILD DOLPHINS ...
REALLY ?!
I'D... I'D LOVE TO!! Just the two of us!!
ANIMAL LOVERS UNITED
DOLPHINS?!
...A DATE, THEN ?
HIDING IN THE BUSHES!
Perhaps he did.
HE PROMISED ME HE'D GO SEE DOLPHINS !!
HEY! DON'T INTER-FERE!
GRAB
I like sea urchins !!
What's your favorite animal, Mayu?
MI-MIKE !!!!
GUHG
DON'T YOU SEE? MAYU HAS LIKED MIKE FOR A LONG TIME...
...AND IT'S OBVIOUS HE LIKED HER, TOO!
.....
...OH... DID HE?
HMMM

YEAH...
I WAS SO LONELY, TOO...
IF I'M WITH HIM...
...I FEEL LIKE I CAN GO ANY-WHERE.
IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK TO-GETHER ...

She's wearing a sweater today.
WELL, WELL. ISN'T THAT NICE.
I WONDER IF THIS WAS THE KIND OF "LOVE"...
... THAT AGEMAKI WANTED TO FIND FOR HER-SELF...
I GUESS WE SHOULD... CONGRAT-ULATE YOU, THEN?

.....!

...HMMM...
TSUBAME, IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED TO "TALK" ABOUT?
I guess so, huh?
UH...
We harmonized !!
BLUSH
WERE YOU.. THINKING THE SAME THING, KANOKO ?
THE GUY I LIKE IS A BIT OF A FLAKE ...
I APOLO-GIZED TO MISAKI... SHE S... GONE...
I WAS REALLY LONELY WITHOUT YOU, KANOKO ...
...DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT AGAIN ?
STILL ...
BEING TOGETHER IS SO WONDER-FUL...

WHY...
...THAT WOULD MEAN THAT THEY STILL HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH THEIR PAST LOVES.
SHO
OOM
TSUBAME.
DID YOU REALLY BREAK UP WITH MISAKI?
ARE YOU ACCUSING ME?
THEN WHY DID SHE SEEM LIKE SHE WANTED TO PUNCH ME IN THE NECK?
He tolld me he looooved meee!
UH... YEAH?

...MAYBE THIS WAS ALL JUST A TEST, MEANT TO DEEPEN MY LOVE FOR KANOKO!
HMMM.. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
ACTUALLY, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THERE TO BE A...LOT MORE CONFLICT. OH, WELL.
SORRY TO HAVE YOU ALL WORRIED.
THANKS!
HEEHEHEE HEE HEE
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU TWO!
MIKE AND MAYU'S REALLY VANISHED, RIGHT?
ONE THING STILL BOTHERS ME...
I MEAN, THE BIRTHMARKS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE A SIGN OF THE LINGERING CONNECTION BETWEEN PAST LOVERS.
...ABOUT THE BIRTHMARKS.
SO...WHY DO TSUBAME AND KANOKO BOTH STILL HAVE THEIR BIRTHMARKS?
AND ONCE YOU'VE CLEARED UP YOUR MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE PERSON FROM THE PAST LIFE, THE BIRTHMARK SHOULD DISAPPEAR, RIGHT?

DID I REALLY LIKE ARATA IN THE PAST LIFE? I JUST DON'T KNOW...
AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, ARATA WAS THE ONE TO TEACH ME ABOUT THE TATTOO, BACK THEN...
I GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT THE BUTTERFLY DISAPPEARS WHEN I SETTLE MY DIFFERENCES WITH MY PAST LOVE...
AND NOW I PROMISED HIM I'D ERASE THIS BUTTERFLY.
I WONDER IF I CAN DO IT.
AND THEN, A FEW DAYS LATER...
...I WAS INVITED TO TEA BY THE MOST UNEXPECTED PERSON.
GAHHH...I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT TO TSUBAME...
And there's no WAY I'm getting on my knees to apologize.
I'M JUST... CURIOUS. WHY DO YOU LIKE TSUBAME?
SO, UM...
...KANOKO...

MAYB--NO!
AND BESIDES, AGEMAKI DIDN'T GET THIS TATTOO FOR HIM.
HEY, HEY! YOU STILL HAVE YOUR BIRTHMARK, TOO, KANOKO!!
DOES THAT MEAN YOU STILL THINK ARATA IS TOTALLY HOT!?
WELL, I'LL MAKE MINE GO AWAY FIRST!!
YOU WILL GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND APOLOGIZE IF YOU FAIL!
IT'S ON NOW!!
WHAT--WHAT!!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
OKAY! I'LL PROVE IT! I'LL MAKE IT GO AWAY!
10
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I GUESS IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY. "CRUEL TO BE KIND," "YOU ONLY HURT WHAT YOU LOVE," ET CETERA.
It's kind of tough
That was pretty fast...
sigh
WE FOUGHT AGAIN...
GUH.

YOU MUST HAVE CALLED KANOKO OUT HERE JUST FOR ME, HUH?
I'M SO SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITIN', TAIJU!
ARATA ?!
FROZEN
CHOONK
STOP RIGHT THERE.
TWI
TCH
"ALWAYS, ALWAYS..."
YOU DO KNOW OUR AGENCY'S POLICY, YES?
UM... ACTUALLY. ...
"...LISTEN TO YOUR ELDERS."
OR WERE YOU PLANNING TO FORGET ...
...ALL THOSE TIMES I HELPED YOU?

I MEAN, HE'S NOT VERY TOUGH...
...AND YOU TWO ARE ALWAYS FIGHTING!!
WHA-- ?
What's this, all of a sudden...?
...I...
KANOKO, I...L--
WELL...
...I KNOW I'M YOUNGER THAN YOU...
STILL, I...
I WOULD NEVER DO THAT, KANOKO!
"Most of the time," maybe...
I... DON'T KNOW ABOUT "ALWAYS" ...
HUH ?
IF, UM, IT WERE ME, I WOULD TREAT YOU WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT!

MEJIRO MUSEUM OF PARASITIC INSECTS
APPAR-ENTLY THEY HAVE HUNDREDS OF LIVE SPECI-MENS!
C'MON, LET'S GO IN!!
Insects? Parasitic ones?
UM... WHAT ?
YES! THIS IS THE PLACE! YES! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO COME HERE. PARASITIC INSECTS ARE FASCINATING.

Seeya, kid!!
Hey, look, it's Taiju!
Ask him for an autograph!
SHCLICK
BIG LOSER
SHALL WE BE OFF, THEN, KANOKO ?
ANYWAY, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, TAIJU!
WAIT-- WHAT ?
C'MON, KANOKO... IT'S BEEN A WHILE. LET'S ENJOY OUR-SELVES.
Now, now
Like, seriously !!
I DO NOT WANT TO GO ON A DATE WITH YOU!!
HEY, ARATA-- WAS IT REALLY YOU WHO CALLED ME?
? ?
WHY, YES, IT WAS! NOW C'MON, LET' S GO ON A DATE!
SERI-OUSLY ...
...LET'S AT LEAST BE FRIENDS !!
ISN'T THERE ANYWHERE YOU REALLY WANT TO GO?
ACTUALLY! I USED THE GPS FUNCTION ON TAIJU'S PHONE AGAINST HIM!

* If you remember in volume 4, Taiju used the GPS on Arata's phone to locate Arata.

DUNG BEETLE
AWESOME!!♡
SPECIMEN
WOW!!♡
T-T-T-T-T-T-T-TAPE-WORMS...
8.8 meters long and they fit inside a human body... that's just sick... that just ain't right... must be an alien..
TAPEWORM
SHIVER
MAN, THAT WAS REALLY FUN!! THANKS, ARATA!!
Didn't the tapeworm look like a huge noodle?♡
NOT GIVING UP
SOOO... UHHH... KANOKO... IS THERE ANY OTHER PLACE YOU REALLY WANNA GO?
あイヒけDキ
HAUNTED HOUSE
ASH!
HEY, LOOK! THERE IT IS! A HAUNTED HOUSE!!
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
.....
AMUSEMENT PARK
HEY, LOOK, A FERRIS WHEEL!♡
C'MON, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE SCARED OF A HAUNTED HOUSE...
I MEAN, YOU'RE THE BIG, TOUGH PRINCE ARATA, RIGHT?
WOW! IT'S DARK IN HERE, HUH?
STOMP STOMP
...YAH...
...THE DARKNESS AIN'T NOTHING.
YEAH, IT'S ACTUALLY KINDA BORING!
SAY, KANOKO...
...IF YOU'RE SCARED, YOU CAN GRIP MY ARM.
...HUH?
ewish
LUMM... KANOKO-?
WHERE... ARE YOU?
TEE HEE
HIEEEEEEEE
GWOOOOH!

...NOW, THOUGH, I REALLY, TRULY UNDERSTAND YOUR REAL GORGEOUSNESS.
IN THE BEGINNING, YEAH, I WAS JUST CHASING "AGEMAKI"...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID ON THE RADIO?
WELL... WELL... I... DON'T KNOW? I HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU EVEN BOTHER WITH ME... AND...
THAT'S KIND OF MEAN OF YOU
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY SO...
I ALREADY HAVE A BOYFRIEND, AND...
STILL ...
ARE YOU STILL MAD BECAUSE OF THE TAPE-WORMS?
Huh?
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY! TELL ME WHAT MAKES HIM BETTER THAN ME?!
Do you like the way he WADDLES?
HEH.
WHY THE HECK WOULD YOU SNUB ME IN FAVOR OF SOME MARSH-MALLOW-PEEP-FACED LITTLE BOY?
YEAH! AND THAT'S WHAT I JUST PLAIN DON'T GET...

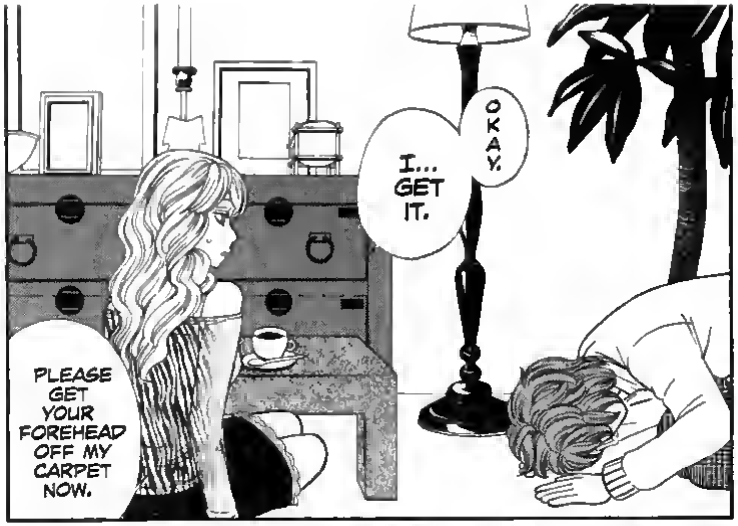
MAN, ARATA, YOU SCREAM LIKE A GIRL!
FWOOOO
I GUESS YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE SINGING HIGH NOTES, HUH?
If only I weren't in the habit of always being honest in interviews!
GOSH, KANOKO ...
...DO YOU REALLY HATE ME THAT MUCH?
SNIP
YOU READ THE INTERVIEW ABOUT MY WORST FEARS IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF EXPLODE!! MAGAZINE.
CUT THE ACT, KID.

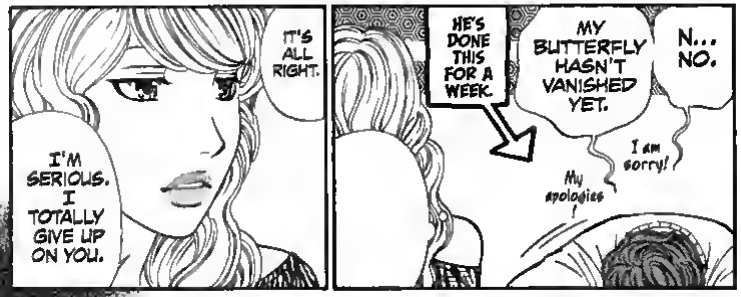
ARATA, MAYBE YOU'RE CONFUSING ME WITH THIS "IDEAL WOMAN"...
...I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I CAN NEVER BE THAT IDEAL WOMAN...
WELL ...
HOW ABOUT THIS?
DO YOU STILL THINK THAT I'M CHASING AFTER ILLUSIONS OF AGEMAKI ?
IS IT THAT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO TRUST ME?

HAVEN'T YOU EVER THOUGHT OF, LIKE, TAKING RISKS?
STILL, KANOKO ...
YEAH ... MAYBE I DO ...
I DON'T HAVE TO... THINK ABOUT ANYTHING, YOU KNOW?
I JUST... WHEN I'M WITH TSUBAME, I FEEL LIKE I CAN BE "ME"...
I GUESS I THINK THIS WAY BECAUSE OF "AGEMAKI" ...
WELL ...
...IN ORDER TO MAKE A LIVING, I PLAYED THE ROLE OF A "HIGH-CLASS LADY OF THE NIGHT"...
SEE, WHEN I WAS "AGEMAKI" ...
..."AGEMAKI" ALWAYS HAD TO BE BEAUTIFUL... THE "PERFECT WOMAN"...
HOWEVER, THAT WASN'T WHO SHE WANTED TO BE...

I CAN BEAR THIS MUCH PAIN...
...IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO GET YOU TO BELIEVE ME, KANOKO.
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
HERE, TAKE THIS! GO POUR SOME COLD WATER ON IT AND COOL THE BURN.
IN RETURN, ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT I LOVE YOU. ALL RIGHT?
DO YOU SEE, NOW, KANOKO? I WON'T CHASE YOU ANYMORE.

WHAT...?
NOW I CAN'T REMEMBER THE "PAST LIFE" ANYMORE.
OH MY GOD! YOU BURNED YOURSELF--
H-HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU--
It didn't even hurt. Man, I'm tough.

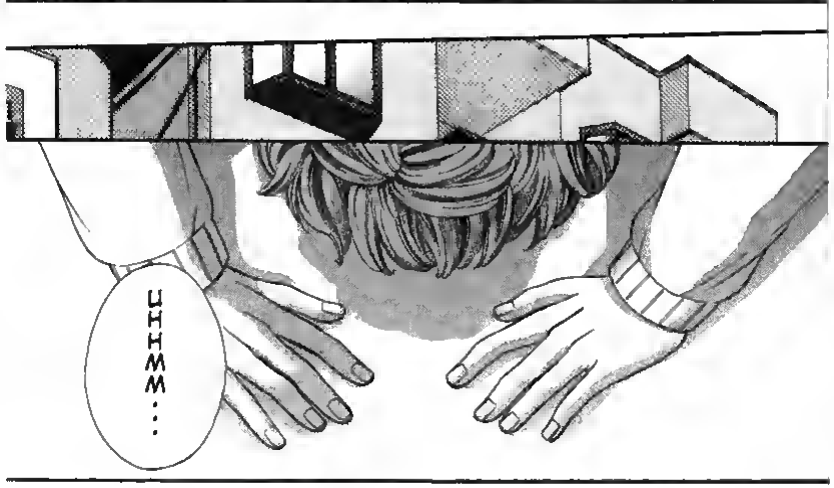

PLEASE GET YOUR FOREHEAD OFF MY CARPET NOW.
I... GET IT.
OKAY.


I'M SERIOUS. I TOTALLY GIVE UP ON YOU.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
HE'S DONE THIS FOR A WEEK.
MY BUTTERFLY HASN'T VANISHED YET.
N... NO.
I am sorry!
My apologies!

I'VE BEEN A TERRIBLE PERSON.
EVEN BACK THEN, ALL I DID WAS USE YOU...
I'M SO SORRY.. I WAS WRONG ...
ALL I REALLY WANTED...WAS FOR YOU AND HER TO NOT BE HAPPY TOGETHER.
MI-SAKI-SAN ...

...WHY... WHY...
GASP
...CAN'T I TAKE MY EYES OFF HIM ?
...
...ARATA...
ALL RIGHT, THEN, KANOKO? NOW, YOU BE A GOOD GIRL.
GROW UP, AND BE GOR-GEOUS !!
FARE-WELL, THEN! ...FOR NOW!

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ?!
AND MY BUTTERFLY HASN'T DISAPPEARED YET...
WHY DO I WISH HE WOULD... TURN AROUND AND LOOK BACK?


UHHMM...

The Mysterious Hairpin?

☆ HELLO, this is the author, TORU FUJIEDA. Thanks for picking up the last volume of OIYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

☆ I've been drawing a lot of Edo-period ladies in this comic, and their ornate hairpins have started to get to me. I decided to research them a bit.

I wondered, "Why do the tips of the hairpins of the ladies in all these old paintings look like... ear-cleaners?"

☆ After doing a little research, I realized it was because the hairpins were "ear-cleaner hairpins." Really, that's what they were called.

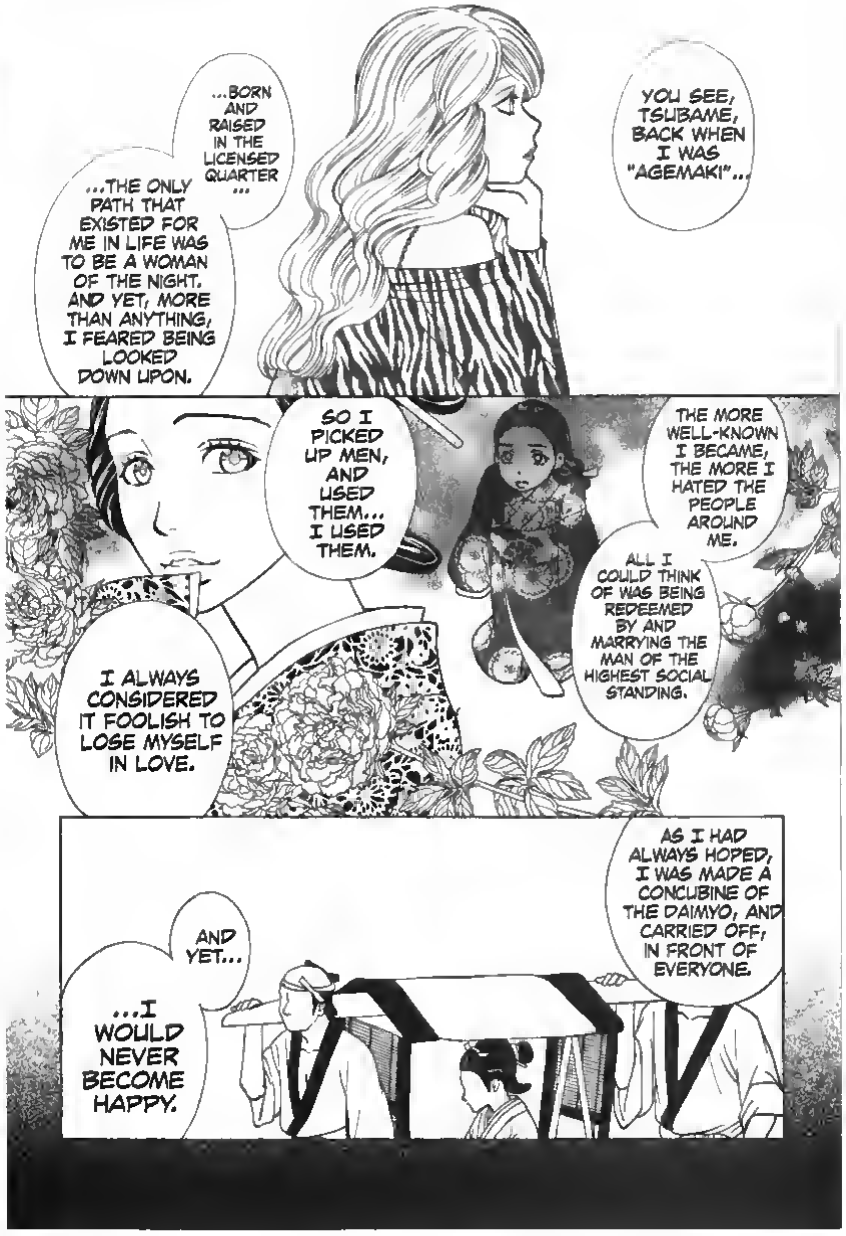
☆ Back then, if a girl's scalp got itchy, they could use the end of the pin to scratch it.

☆ And because it also had an ear scratcher attached to it, it was a really popular item in shops.

CONTINUED IN PART 2

AND THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF, THEN ...
...WAS THE TIME I SPENT WITH SUKE-ROKU.
IN THE DAIMYO'S MANSION, THERE WAS NO ONE TO FAWN OVER ME...
EVEN WHEN I GREW OLD AND FELL ILL...
...I WAS ALWAYS ALONE.

SUKEROKU LOVED ME MORE PURELY THAN ANYONE EVER WOULD...
AND SO IT WAS...
...THAT IN THE END, I CAME TO REALIZE THAT I HAD BEEN HAPPIEST WITH HIM.


YOU SEE, TSUBAME, BACK WHEN I WAS "AGEMAKI"...
...BORN AND RAISED IN THE LICENSED QUARTER ...
...THE ONLY PATH THAT EXISTED FOR ME IN LIFE WAS TO BE A WOMAN OF THE NIGHT. AND YET, MORE THAN ANYTHING, I FEARED BEING LOOKED DOWN UPON.
SO I PICKED UP MEN, AND USED THEM... I USED THEM.
THE MORE WELL-KNOWN I BECAME, THE MORE I HATED THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.
ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS BEING REDEEMED BY AND MARRYING THE MAN OF THE HIGHEST SOCIAL STANDING.
I ALWAYS CONSIDERED IT FOOLISH TO LOSE MYSELF IN LOVE.
AS I HAD ALWAYS HOPED, I WAS MADE A CONCUBINE OF THE DAIMYO, AND CARRIED OFF, IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.
AND YET...
...I WOULD NEVER BECOME HAPPY.

...HERE.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS BACK.
.....
PLEASE... TELL HER... I'M SORRY.
I'M SO SORRY I CAN'T HELP YOU ERASE YOUR BUTTERFLY.
STILL, BELIEVE ME-- I WILL LEAVE YOU BE.

I WONDER WHY SHE DIDN'T REALIZE IT WHILE SUKEROKU WAS STILL ALIVE?
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO RUINED HIM.
EVEN AFTER I WAS TAKEN AS THE DAIMYO'S CONCUBINE, I DIDN'T ERASE THE BUTTERFLY TATTOO.
AND AFTER THAT, I LEARNED THAT THERE WAS A PLAY MADE ABOUT SUKEROKU AND I COMMITTING SUICIDE TOGETHER.
IT REMAINED AS THE SIGN THAT SUKEROKU HAD LOVED ME.
STILL, I NEVER IMAGINED THAT IT HAD BEEN UTSUSEMI WHO DIED WITH HIM INSTEAD.

SWOOSH
.....
GOODBYE.
SLOW
CLUNK
IS THIS ...
...REALLY HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO END?

TSUBAME !!
WAIT !!
HE'S NOT HERE ...
TSUBAME ...
... WHERE ...ARE YOU...?
SWOOSH

TRULY, WE MET ...
WE WERE REBORN... AND WE MET AGAIN.
...SO THAT WE COULD START OVER...
AND YET... WHY...
IN MY MOMENT OF DEATH...
...I IMAGINED A LIFE WHERE I WOULD BE REBORN, WHERE I COULD MEET HIM AGAIN.
..WHY MUST WE PART AGAIN?
BAM

HE'LL BE SO MAD IF I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH A BIRTHMARK.
grrr
MAN, WHAT DO I DO IF TSUBAME STILL HAS HIS BUTTERFLY
MAYBE I'M JUST A TERRIBLE PERSON.
I'M SO SORRY, TSU-BAME !!
I'M ON MY WAY!
STAMP STAMP
YEAH, TSUBAME IS DEFINITELY CUTER...
...ARATA THOUGH... HE'S SO... COOL...
I HAD NO IDEA HE WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
AND WHY THE HECK DO I KEEP THINKING ABOUT ARATA ALL OF A SUDDEN
GAHH
UHHH

I'M CLOSE TO THERE.
OH.
I'LL BE WAITING AT THE PARK, OKAY?
HELLO? KANOKO?
CAN I SEE YOU NOW?
GRRRIP

OH NO...
TSUBAME ?!

THERE HE IS!
TSUBAMEEE!!
SHOO OMP
OH !!
KANOKO-CHA--
.....!
TING!!

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
FINAL CHAPTER
Wings of the Future

OOM
ZH
TSUBAME!!
CHAPTER 14/END

Character Guide #27

Sukeroku Yorozuya

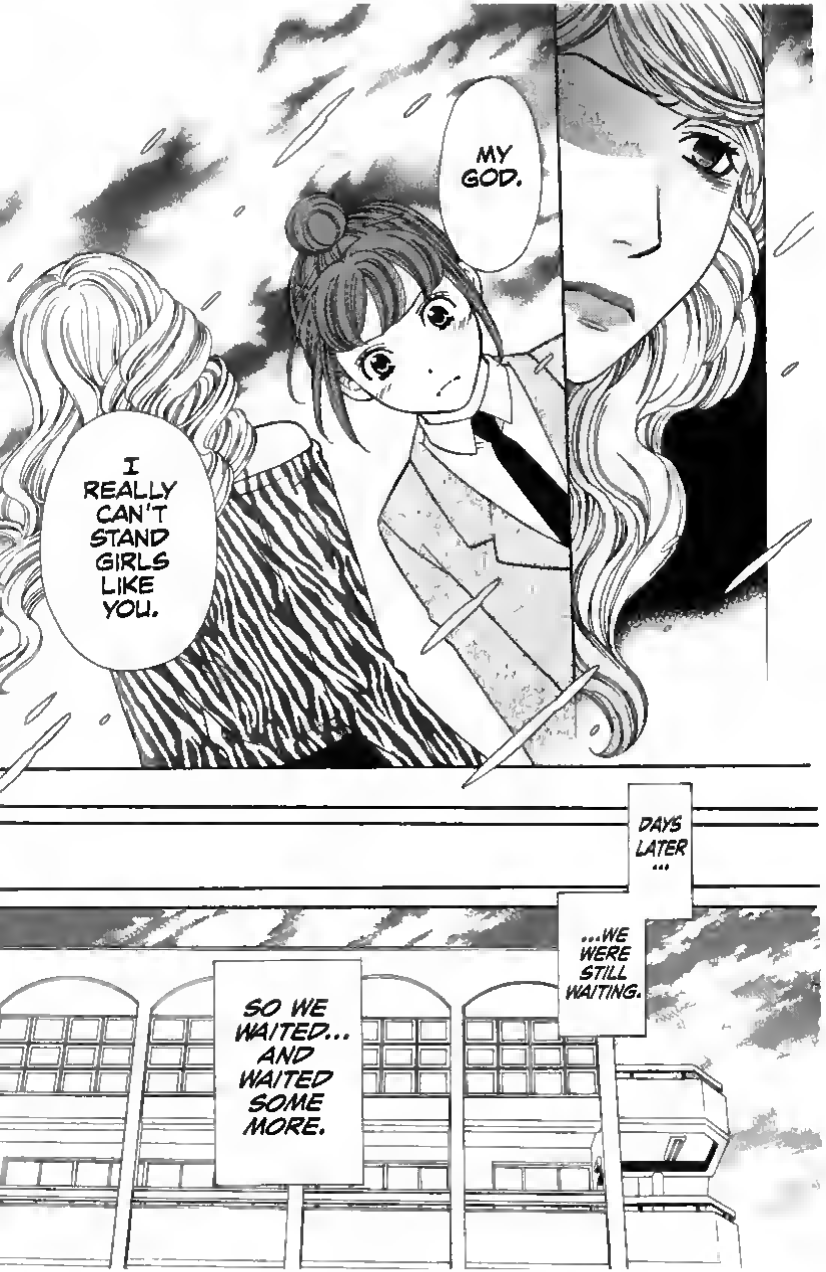
Birthday: 5/13

Blood Type: B

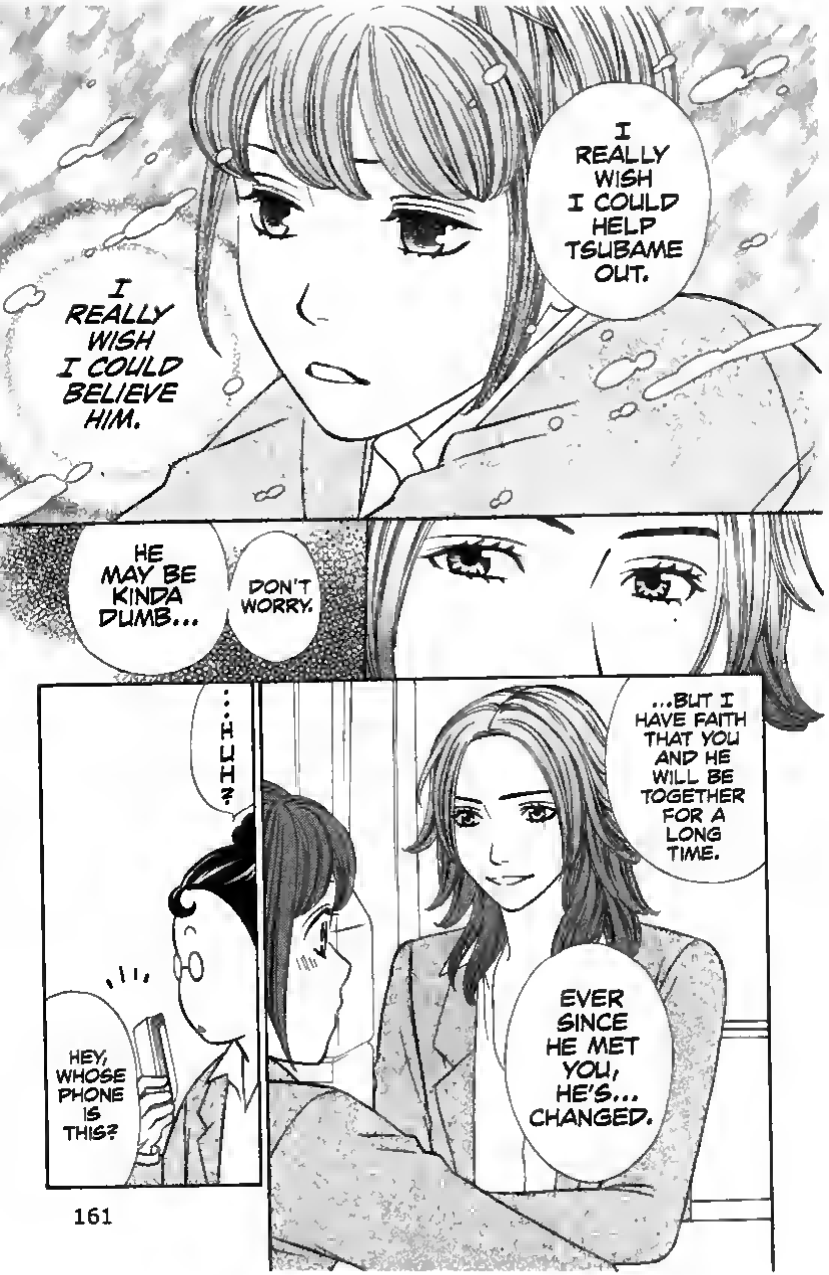
Tsubame's previous incarnation.
He's also the source of this entire story (maybe).
He's the son of a rich merchant, and kind of super-naive.
Back in the Edo Period, lovers' suicides were all the rage, and Sukeroku's attempt went wrong for many reasons, influencing generations.

IT'S TRUE, THEN ...
TSUBAME WAS SUPPOSED TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO ME.
MISAKI...
OF COURSE !!
THAT'S WHY I STILL HAVE THIS BUTTERFLY.
...HAVE YOU LOVED HIM ALL ALONG ?
HE ONLY FELL INTO THAT RIVER BECAUSE HE WENT TO MEET YOU!!

OH, TSUBAME!!
MISAKI...
I'M SURE HE'LL REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS SOON.
HE SEEMS TO BE IN SHOCK FROM THE FALL.
IT SEEMS THAT THERE'VE BEEN NO INJURIES TO HIS BODY.
HE... DOESN'T HAVE A FAMILY.
NOT EVEN ANY DISTANT RELATIVES.
HAVE YOU CONTACTED HIS FAMILY ?


MY GOD.
I REALLY CAN'T STAND GIRLS LIKE YOU.
DAYS LATER...
...WE WERE STILL WAITING.
SO WE WAITED... AND WAITED SOME MORE.

IT WAS MY DESTINY TO MEET TSUBAME.
...AGEMAKI LOVED SUKEROKU UNTIL THE DAY SHE DIED.
EVEN THOUGH THEY DIDN'T DIE TOGETH-ER...
I MET TSUBME AFTER YOU MET HIM.
YET...
FOR ME, TSUBAME IS MY DESTINED LOVE.
I'M SORRY.
I PROMISE TO MAKE HIM HAPPY.

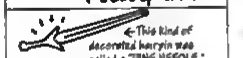

I REALLY WISH I COULD BELIEVE HIM.
I REALLY WISH I COULD HELP TSUBAME OUT.
HE MAY BE KINDA DUMB...
DON'T WORRY.
...HUH?
HEY, WHOSE PHONE IS THIS?
...BUT I HAVE FAITH THAT YOU AND HE WILL BE TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME.
EVER SINCE HE MET YOU, HE'S... CHANGED.

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH...
...TSUBAME DOESN'T WANT TO WAKE UP.
MAN, EVEN WHEN HE'S IN A COMA HE'S KINDA ANNOY-ING.
KANOKO, MAYBE YOU HAVE TO WAKE HIM UP WITH A KISS?
YEAH, MAYBE !!
That wouldn't surprise me.
KANOKO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT MISAKI LADY!
SHE'S JUST BEING BITTER BECAUSE SHE LOST TSUBAME TO YOU !!
YEAH... MAYBE.
I WONDER... WAS SHE... WITH HIM THAT DAY?
I STILL DON'T FEEL SO CONFI-DENT...
LIKE, MAYBE MISAKI REALLY IS MEANT TO BE WITH HIM...

DID HE REALLY SAVE ALL THOSE DUMB PICTURES HE TOOK OF ME?
STOP IT! DON'T LOOK-
GYAHH!!
Come on, cut it out--
BOOP
BOOP
WOW, THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHERS, TOO!
MAN, KANOKO, WHY DO YOU LOOK SO MAD IN ALL OF THESE?
BOOP
WAIT...
...THAT'S...
HE NOTICED ME EVEN THEN?
NO WAY!
WOW, LOOK AT YOUR HAIR.
ISN'T THIS FROM THE FIRST DAY OF... FRESHMAN YEAR?
YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT, HUH?

HE SAID HIS PHONE WAS BROKEN.
HMM...
THIS IS TSUBAME'S PHONE.
OH!
I GUESS HE LEFT IT HERE.
CLICK
WHOA-HOH! LOOK AT THAT!
HEY HEY
THIS IS HIS WALLPAPER?
FLASH
LOOK AT THE HAPPY COUPLE!
WHA--?

The Mysterious Hairpin?



★ There were plenty of kinds of hairpins, not just ones with ear-scratchers. I found out a lot in my research:

- Ones with bent tips, to make it easier to bind the hair
- Ones with rounded tips to make them more safe
- Back in the the Edo period, hairpins were a luxury item and thus there were applicable taxes. So, by attaching an ear cleaner to the hairpin, it gave the item a medical purpose, and helped keep it tax-free!

As you can see, in many ways, the "ear-cleaning hairpin" was a very convenient item. One might (or might not!) call it the star of the Edo Period! .. I find this kind of thing really interesting.

- In later eras, it became more and more common for girls to wear multiple hairpins. At one time, it was common for girls to wear eight in the back, and eight in the front. That's sixteen hairpins! That's a lot of work in the morning.

ACTUALLY...
I DID LIKE HIM FROM THE MOMENT I SAW HIM.
I JUST PRETENDED IT WAS NOTHING... AND I WROTE EMAILS TO MY SISTER ABOUT HIM.
I THOUGHT, MAYBE... IF I COULD TALK TO YOU...
TSUBAME, I MISS YOU.
...I WOULD BE ABLE TO...
...I DON'T KNOW... I JUST THOUGHT...

AGEMAK!
...
...WE MEET AGAIN.

...SUKE-ROKU!?
IT'S ME, AGEMAK! !!
YES, YES!
UH...
...SUKE-ROKU!

SHOOM

TSU-BA-ME ...?
ZOOM
A...
TSUBAME!!
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE!

IN THE END, THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I COULD DO.
WHAT A WRETCHED ENDING...
I WAS STILL YET A CHILD...
...BUT I ACTED AS AN ADULT.
I KNEW NOTHING OF THE WORLD.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HAS SUKEROKU TAKEN OVER TSUBAME'S BODY?
NO, PLEASE !!
WE'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN, JUST SO WE CAN HAVE THIS CONVERSATION!!
PERHAPS THESE THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID ...

YES, SUKEROKU.
YOU HAVE COME TO SEE ME...
AGEMAKI ...
...I SEE YOU HAVE BEEN REBORN AGAIN... THAT IS GOOD.
WHAT'S HAPPENING ?
PLEASE ...
... ACCEPT MY APOLOGY ...
SUICIDE WAS SUCH A RASH MEASURE...
IT SEEMS THAT, ULTIMATELY...
...I REALLY AM JUST A WORTHLESS FOOL.

"WE WOULD NEVER MAKE IT IN THIS WORLD TOGETHER."
I THOUGHT...
...JUST BEFORE I DIED...
"I WONDER, IF WE WERE REBORN..."
"...WOULD WE TRULY BE ABLE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER?"
"...OR WOULD WE MERELY WALK DOWN THE EXACT SAME PATH AGAIN?"

WHERE IS TSU-BAME?
IS HE... GONE?
THIS IS OUR CHANCE! WE CAN FINALLY BE TOGETHER!!
flutter
.....
I AM SORRY.
THAT MUST NOT BE.
WE ARE SO ALONE...
...AND WE...
...SO LONG FOR SOMEONE TO RELY ON.
...WH...
...WHY?!
OH, AGEMAKI...
...WE ARE SO ALIKE.

AHH. AT LAST. I HAVE FOUND YOU.
I HAVE NO REGRETS.

ZOOM

SUKE-ROKU ...?
ガコーン

THOUGH WE MAY MEET AGAIN...
...SUKE-ROKU...
SO ... SO ...
...WHAT DO I DO ?!
WE ARE BOUND ...
..."DESTINED" TO NEVER TRULY CONNECT.
...AGE-MAK!...
...I'M DEEPLY SORRY I INVOLVED YOU IN ALL THIS.
AT THAT TIME, WHEN I DIED ...
...! WANTED ONLY TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU. SHOULD WE MEET AGAIN.
AGEMAK!, I ENTRUST TO YOU MY SPIRIT...

STOP THIS, SUKEROKU !!
DON'T KILL TSUBAME !!
PLEASE!! TSUBAME, DON'T DIE!!
YOU HAVE TO LIVE, AND YOU HAVE TO BE HAPPY !!
IF YOU DIE, WE'LL ALL BE SO SAD... PLEASE !!
PLEASE!! LIVE!! YOU AND ME, TOGETHER !! FOREVER !!

HE'S NOT BREATHING !!
NO !!
DON'T YOU DARE DIE ON ME!!
WHY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!!
I'M SO, SO SORRY I COULDN'T HAVE DIED WITH YOU BACK THEN!
bam
WAIT !!
NO !!

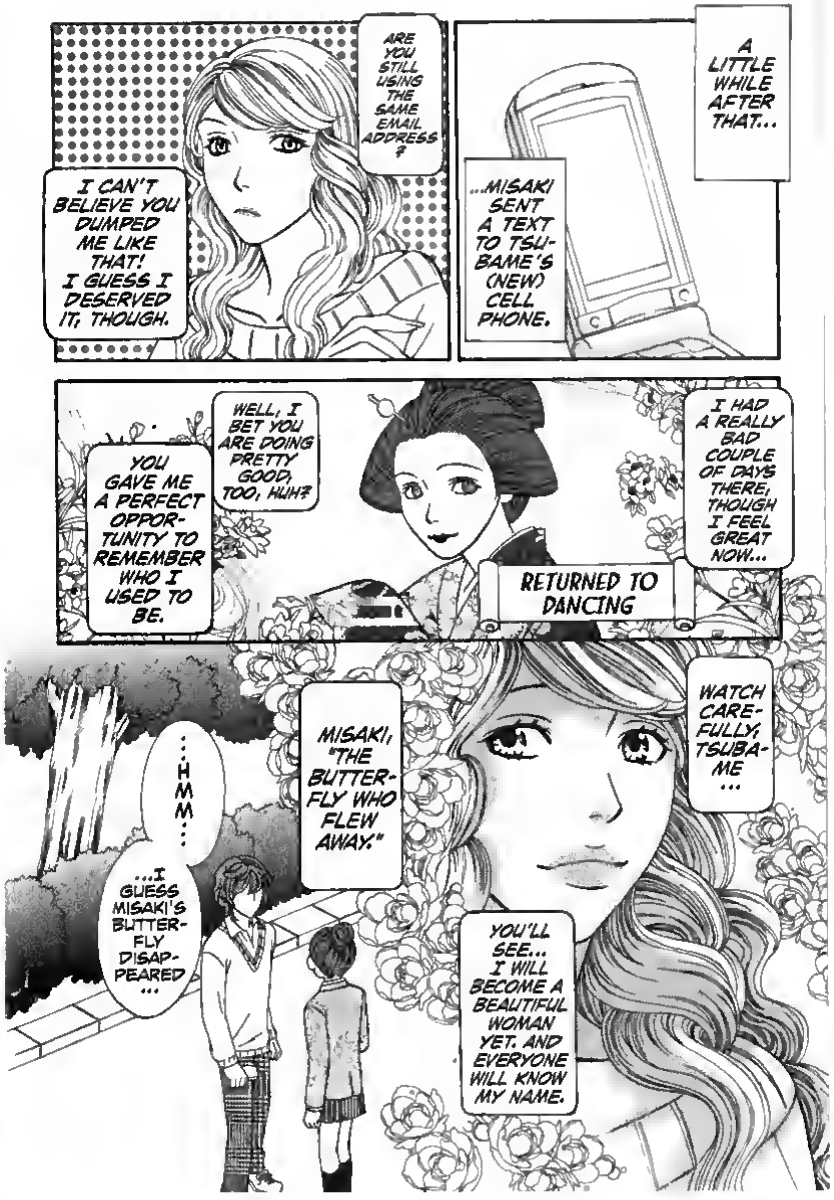
...WHAT THE HECK...
...IS IT RAINING?
HUH?
HEY THERE, KANOKO.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID "REINCARNATION IS A SECOND CHANCE TO BECOME HAPPY."
YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP!!
IF YOU DIE I'LL KICK YOUR BUTT!!

...So you don't want another one?
You FOOL I don't care about the ring!!
No, I... do?
TSUBAME NEVER REMEMBERED THE TIME HE SPOKE AS "SUKEROKU."
HE SAYS HE HEARD MY VOICE IN A DREAM.
I WAS CALLING TO HIM AND HE FOLLOWED.

YOU...
YOU...YOU...
SHOOMP
OH NO!!
NO WAY--I DROPPED THE RING!
OH MAN...
...MORON!!
FSUMP
YOU ARE SUCH AN IDIOT!!
You musta really liked that ring...?
...UH...
...UM...
WAHHH
WAHHH
I'M SORRY--I'LL MAKE YOU ANOTHER ONE--

WELL ...
I GUESS ...
...JUST ONE MORE THING.
SEE. ONLY MY BUTTERFLY STAYED.
YEAH, I GUESS IT DID.
AND JUST LIKE THAT ...
...TSUBAME NEVER SPOKE OF "AGEMAKI" EVER AGAIN.

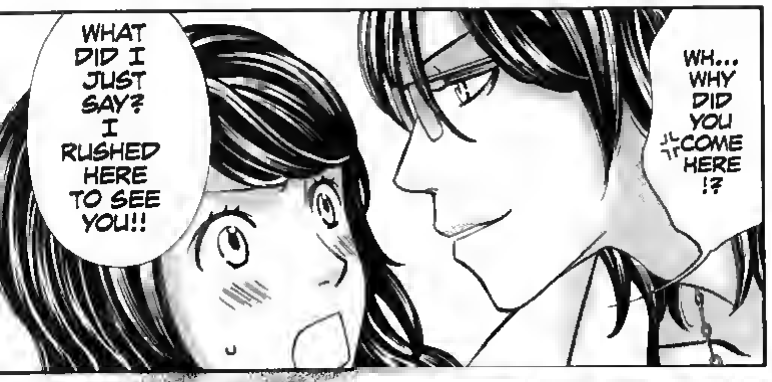

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DUMPED ME LIKE THAT! I GUESS I DESERVED IT, THOUGH.
ARE YOU STILL USING THE SAME EMAIL ADDRESS?
A LITTLE WHILE AFTER THAT...
...MISAKI SENT A TEXT TO TSUBAME'S (NEW) CELL PHONE.
YOU GAVE ME A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER WHO I USED TO BE.
WELL, I BET YOU ARE DOING PRETTY GOOD, TOO, HUH?
I HAD A REALLY BAD COUPLE OF DAYS THERE, THOUGH I FEEL GREAT NOW...
RETURNED TO DANCING
WATCH CAREFULLY, TSUBAME ...
MISAKI, "THE BUTTERFLY WHO FLEW AWAY."
...HMM...
...I GUESS MISAKI'S BUTTERFLY DISAPPEARED ...
YOU'LL SEE... I WILL BECOME A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN YET. AND EVERYONE WILL KNOW MY NAME.

MAN, IT'S HOT ...
DAB DAB DAB
SCRAPE
HEY, KANOKO.
HEYA! HARD AT WORK, EH?
You've got paint on your cheek!
IT JUST KEEPS COMING OUT... I NEED ALL THE PRACTICE I CAN GET FOR THAT ART SCHOLARSHIP ...
YOU PAINT SO FAST, TSUBAME.
MAN, IT'S SO HOT IN THE ART ROOM.
We need an air conditioner.

CLATTER
ALL RIGHT, MEETING IS ADJOURNED ...
CHATTER CHATTER
HIMEMIYA IS THE BEST STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT EVER!
AND SHE'S SO PRETTY.
DID YOU KNOW THAT HER SISTER IS MAYU HIMEMIYA, THE ACTRESS?
OH, I CAN TOTALLY SEE THE RESEMBLANCE!
OKAY, EVERYBODY, APPLICATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AT THE CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL ARE OFFICIALLY CLOSED.
AT OUR NEXT MEETING ...
...WE WILL DECIDE THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. ...

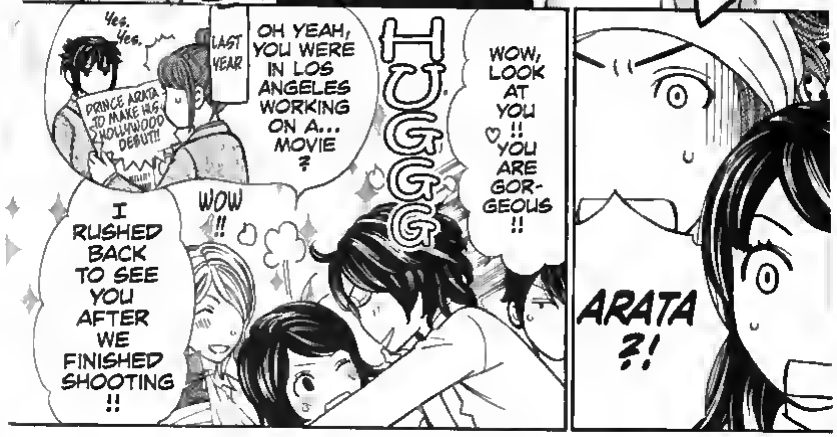
I DECIDED I JUST WANTED TO... WORK WITH PEOPLE.
I THOUGHT, MAYBE I COULD JUST BE MYSELF, AND HAVE SOME FUN.
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO RUN?
I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I... CHANGED?
WHO IS "HE"?
HEY, DID YOU GUYS HEAR?
HE CAME BACK FROM LOS ANGELES YESTERDAY. ♡
HEY, A TEXT FROM MAYU...
MY LITTLE KANOKO HAS GROWN UP! SNIFF
ISN'T MAYU UP IN HOKKAIDO VISITING MIKE NOW?
COOL... I WANNA GO TO HOKKAIDO, SOMEDAY.

MY UNIVERSITY IS ON SUMMER VACATION...
HO HO HO HO
HEY, KIKI!
Oho! Ex-boss!!
KIKI! I THOUGHT YOU GRADUATED!! GET OUT OF HERE!!
YOU'VE GOT TALENT, KID... I HOPE YOU CAN PASS THE ENTRANCE EXAMS.
GA
AH
I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT KANOKO WOULD BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL, THOUGH!!
YEAH...
HEY, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. JUST AS I PLANNED, I AM A PUBLISHED AUTHOR IN COLLEGE. ♡
I bought the magazine!!
EX-BOSS! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR LITERARY DEBUT!
Current boss
Autograph, please!!
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR MY PROSE!!
YEAH, PUBLISHED A STORY YOU STOLE FROM US.
DING


WHAT DID I JUST SAY? I RUSHED HERE TO SEE YOU!!
WH... WHY DID YOU COME HERE!?

WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I DID! I DIDN'T SAY THAT I GAVE UP ON YOU, SPECIFICALLY.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T CHASE ME ANYMORE?
HUH!?
I MADE A LOT OF MONEY ON THIS MOVIE, KANOKO! Paid off my debts!!
AND MY LITTLE MORIMO IS IN SCHOOL NOW. IT'S TIME TO GROW UP!
AFTER YOU GRADUATE, MARRY ME.

HEY, KANOKO! I'M BACK!! ♡
KYAAAAAAAAAA♡


Yes. Yes.
PRINCE ARATA TO MAKE HIS HOLLYWOOD DEBUT!!
LAST YEAR
OH YEAH, YOU WERE IN LOS ANGELES WORKING ON A... MOVIE ?
HUGGG
WOW, LOOK AT YOU !! ♡ YOU ARE GORGEOUS !!
WOW !!
I RUSHED BACK TO SEE YOU AFTER WE FINISHED SHOOTING !!
ARATA ?!

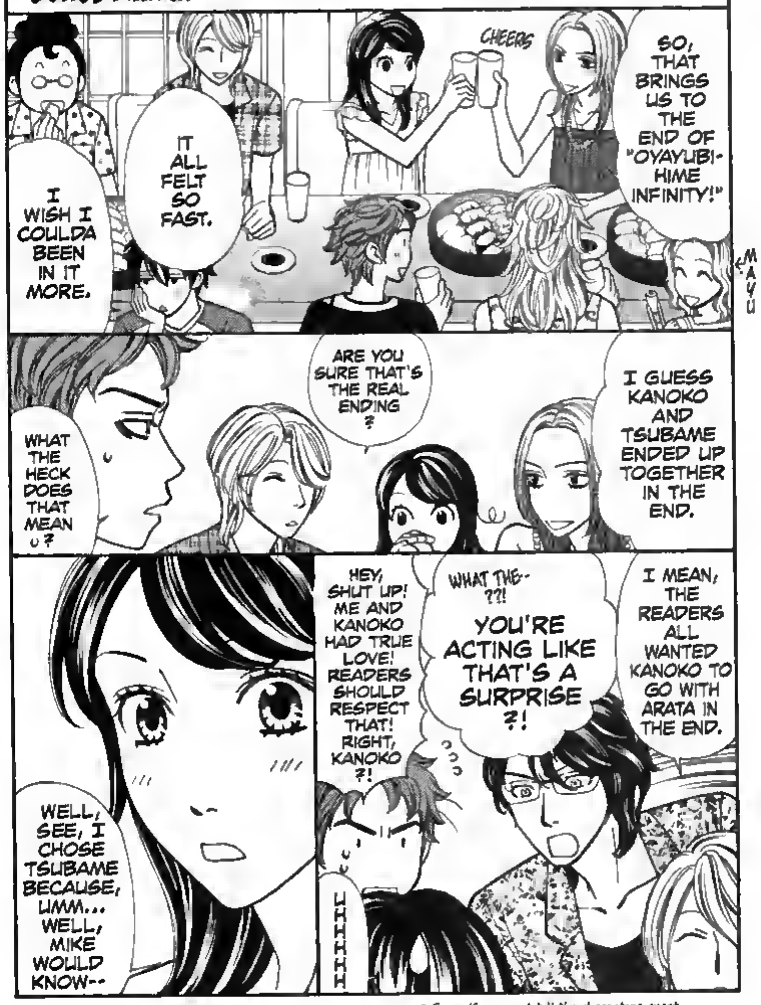
I'M SORRY ...
...BUT I'M ALREADY HAPPY WITH TSUBAME!
How about ME?
Man, I want a girlfriend, too.
Don't worry, kid. There's always the next life.
What the HELL!!
Shut up...
NO, NO, NO !!
SEE-YA!!

YOU LET GO OF HER !!
TSUBAME!
HEY!!
H-HOA!!
WHY, I JUST PUT A RING ON HER FINGER --
OH, HASN'T SHE GIVEN UP ON YOU YET?
GRABBB
TSUBAME!
KANOKO IS MY GIRL-FRIEND, OKAY?
YOU SEE, THIS FINGER ...
...IS TAKEN.
ACTU-ALLY, ARATA ...
GWUH!?
YES, YES, ARATA, I ACCEPT !!
Let's live like ROYALTY !!

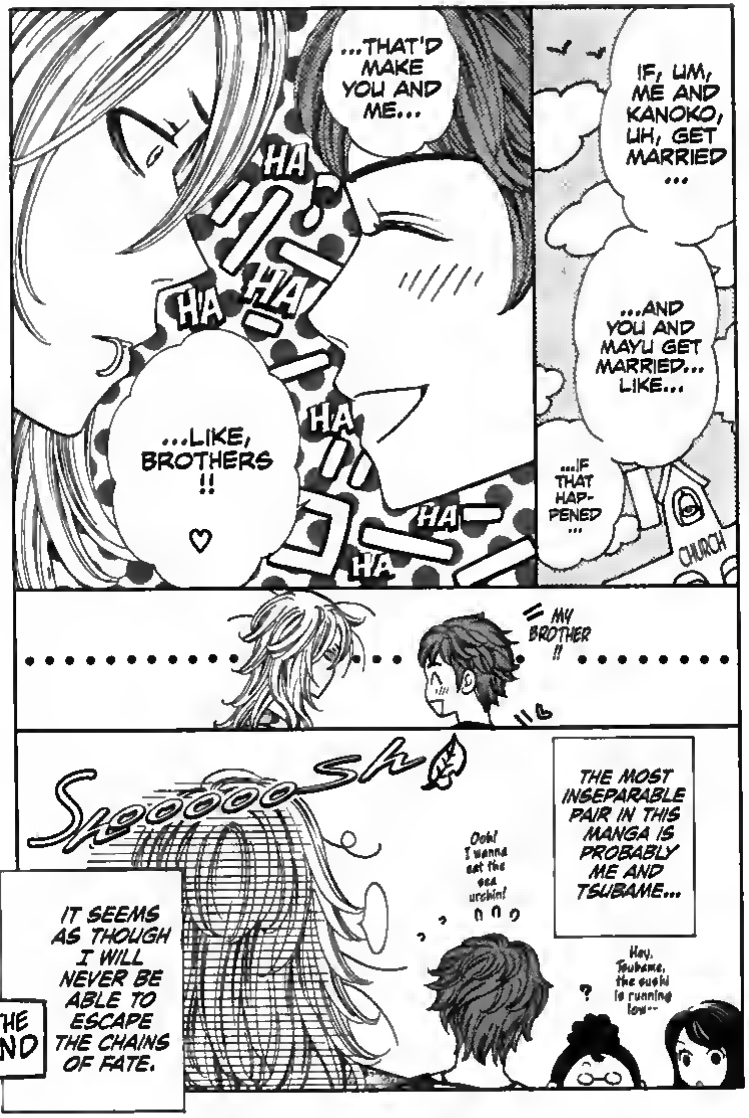
IN THE END...
...THE WORLD WON'T CHANGE.
WE WILL.
AND THE MESSAGE ...
...OF THE PAST.
IT'S BECAUSE WE BELIEVED ...
...THAT WE CAME TOGETHER LIKE THIS.

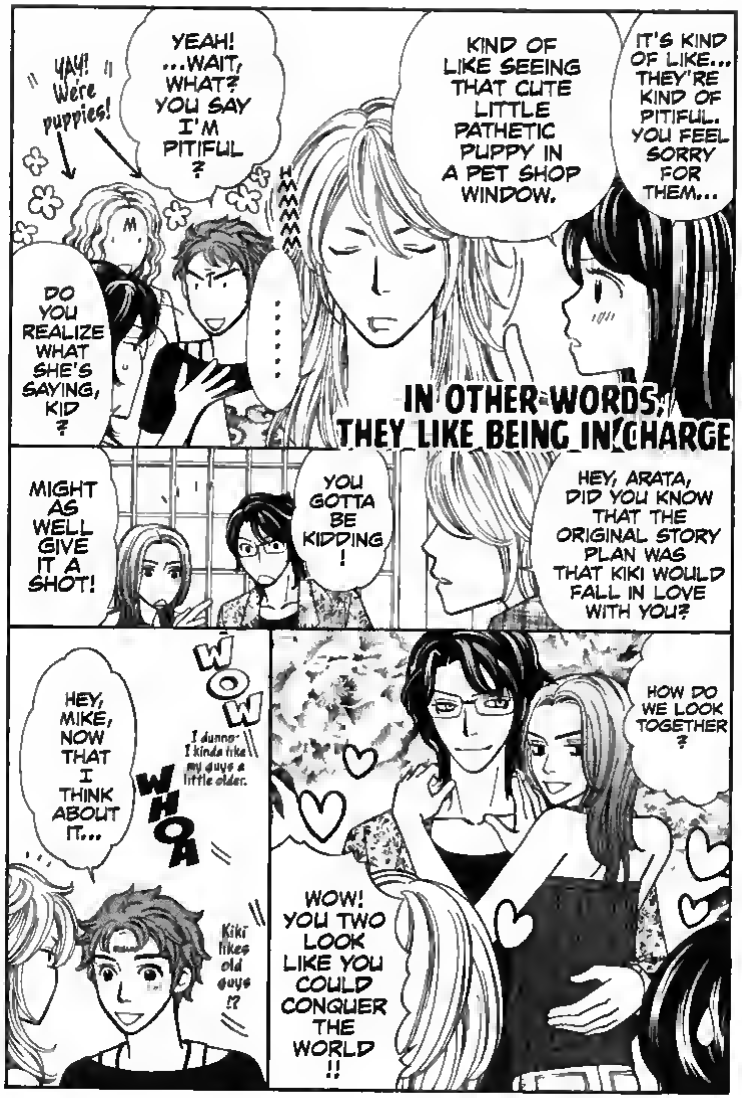
I WONDER WHAT THIS BUTTERFLY BIRTHMARK REALLY MEANS FOR YOU, KANOKO?
HMM. ME, TOO. I MEAN, I'M NOT TOTALLY SURE...
...THOUGH I KIND OF GET THE FEELING THAT IT'S JUST A SIMPLE MESSAGE.
IT'S NOT ASKING FOR AN "ENDING" ...
...IT'S JUST SOMETHING LEFT BEHIND TO HELP ME... GROW UP.
IT'S A MESSAGE FROM AGEMAKI TO ME...
...TELLING ME TO LIVE FOR MYSELF...
HEY, TSUBA-ME...
DO YOU STILL BELIEVE IN "DESTINY"?
BECAUSE I DO.

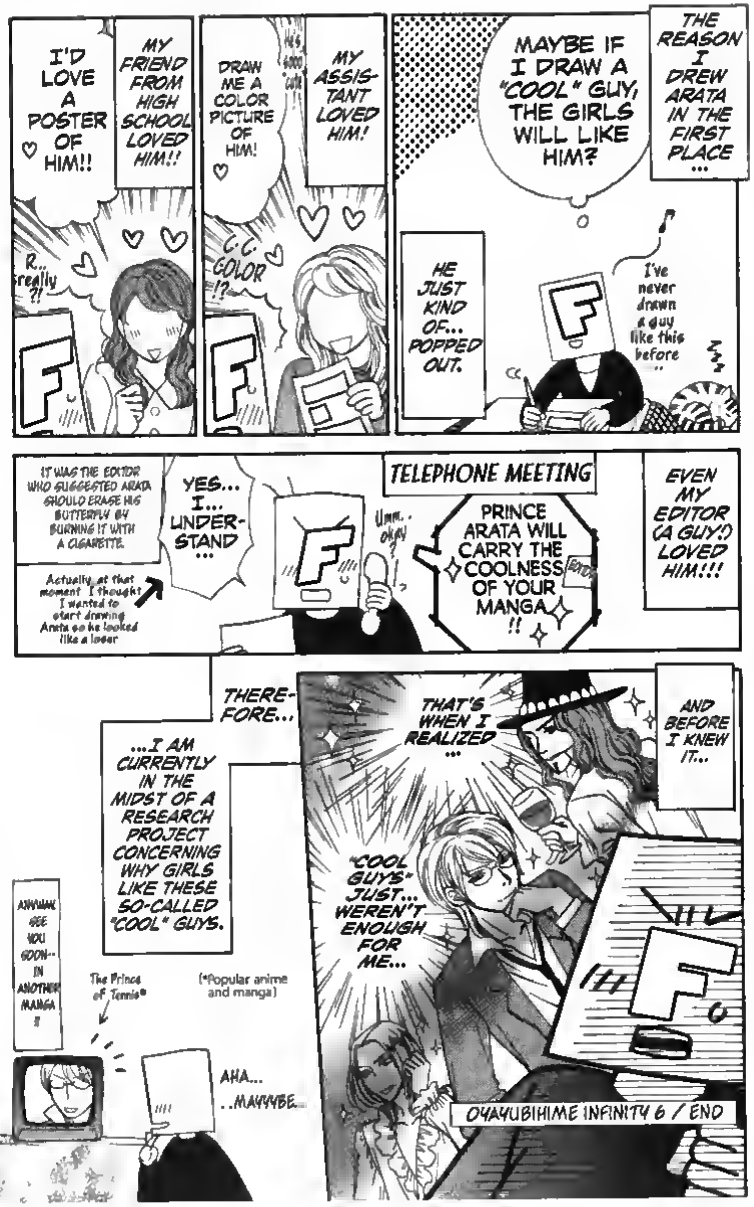
FINAL VOLUME BONUS MANGA By TORU FUJIEDA

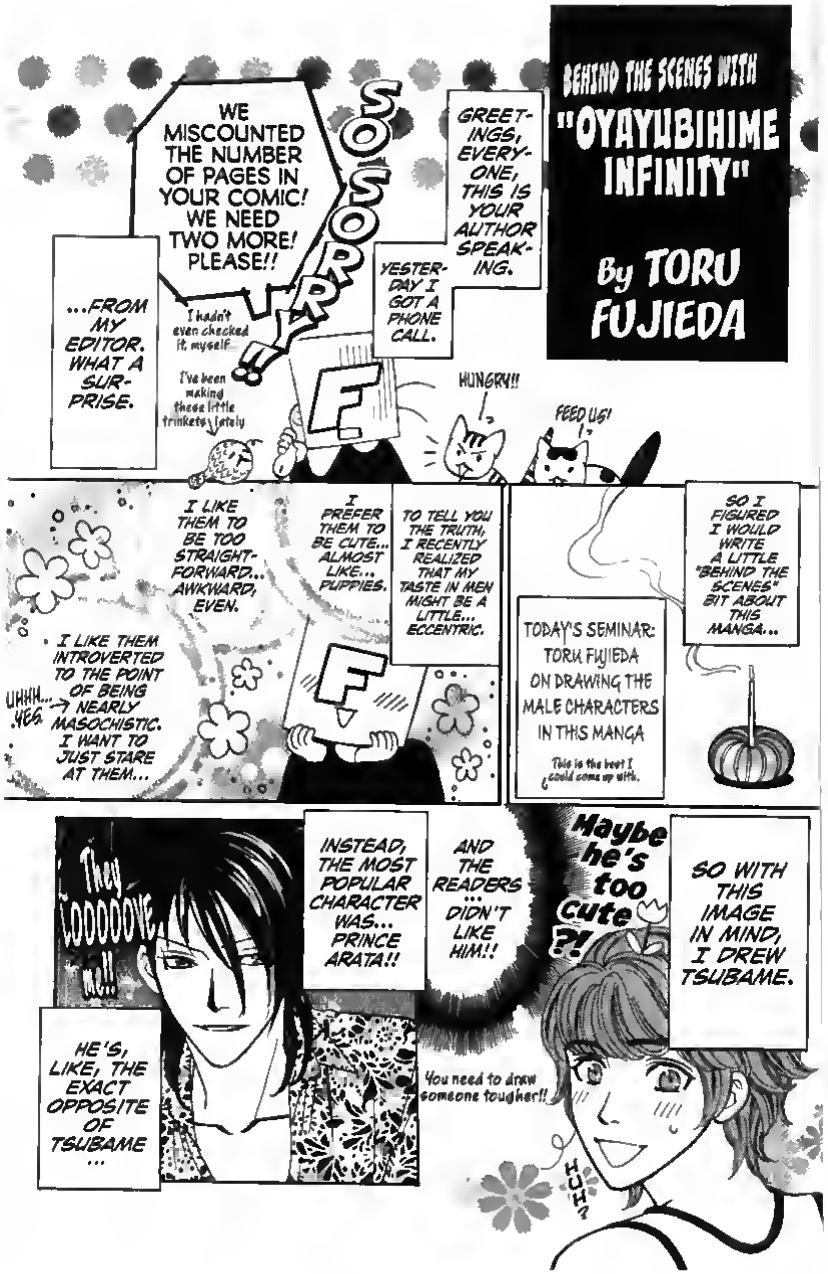

CHEERS
SO, THAT BRINGS US TO THE END OF "OYAYUBI-HIME INFINITY!"
IT ALL FELT SO FAST.
I WISH I COULDA BEEN IN IT MORE.
MAYU
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S THE REAL ENDING?
I GUESS KANOKO AND TSUBAME ENDED UP TOGETHER IN THE END.
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
I MEAN, THE READERS ALL WANTED KANOKO TO GO WITH ARATA IN THE END.
WHAT THE--?!
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE THAT'S A SURPRISE?!
HEY, SHUT UP! ME AND KANOKO HAD TRUE LOVE! READERS SHOULD RESPECT THAT! RIGHT, KANOKO?!
HHHHH
WELL, SEE, I CHOSE TSUBAME BECAUSE, UMM... WELL, MIKE WOULD KNOW--

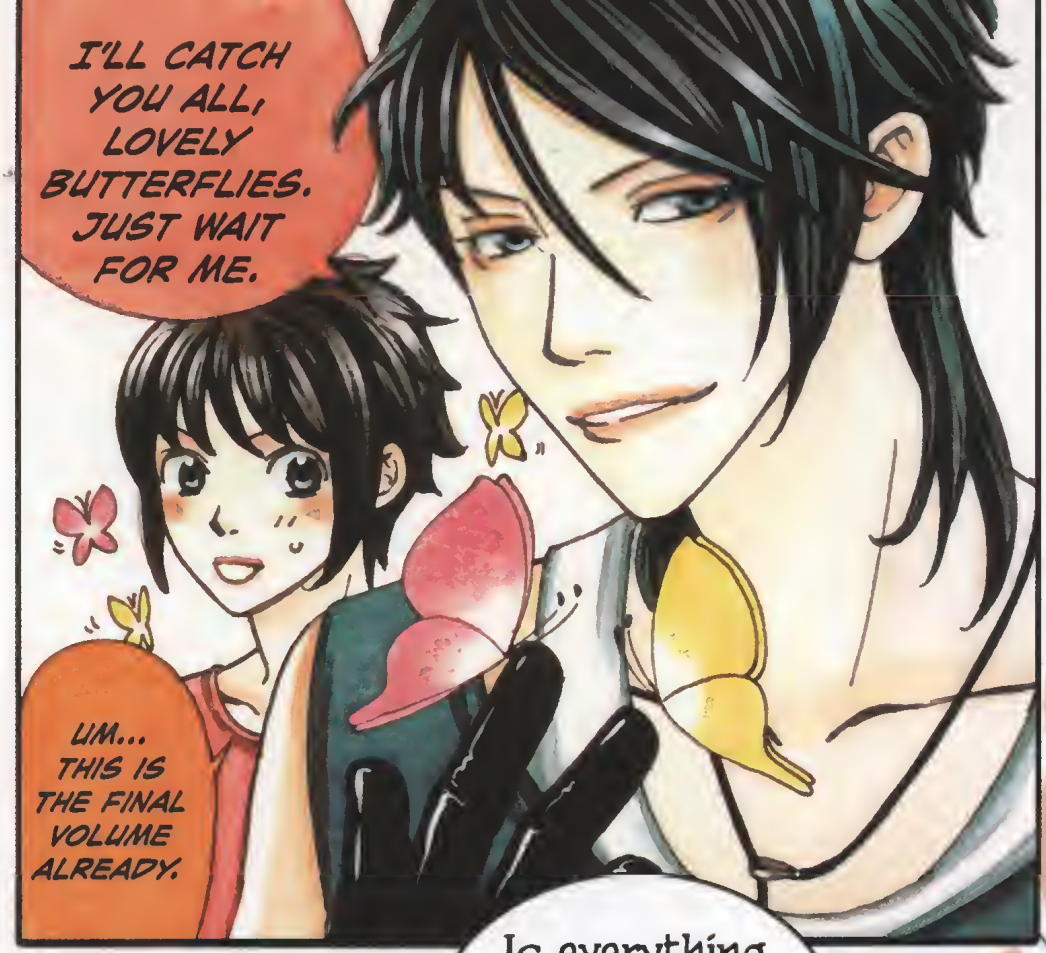
* Sorry if you can't tell the characters apart. They've all gotten haircuts recently. Such things happen!


...THAT'D MAKE YOU AND ME...
HA HA HA HA HA HA
...LIKE, BROTHERS !!
IF, UM, ME AND KANOKO, UH, GET MARRIED ...
...AND YOU AND MAYU GET MARRIED... LIKE...
...IF THAT HAP-PENED ...
CHURCH
= MY BROTHER !!
SHOOOOOOSH
Ooh! I wanna eat the sea urchin!
Hey, Tsubame, the sushi is running low--
THE MOST INSEPARABLE PAIR IN THIS MANGA IS PROBABLY ME AND TSUBAME...
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE CHAINS OF FATE.
THE END


YAY! We're puppies!
YEAH! ...WAIT, WHAT? YOU SAY I'M PITIFUL ?
KIND OF LIKE SEEING THAT CUTE LITTLE PATHETIC PUPPY IN A PET SHOP WINDOW.
IT'S KIND OF LIKE... THEY'RE KIND OF PITIFUL. YOU FEEL SORRY FOR THEM...
MMMMM
.....
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT SHE'S SAYING, KID ?
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY LIKE BEING IN CHARGE
MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT A SHOT!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING !
HEY, ARATA, DID YOU KNOW THAT THE ORIGINAL STORY PLAN WAS THAT KIKI WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU?
HEY, MIKE, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WOW
I dunno- I kinda like my guys a little older.
WHOA
Kiki likes old guys !?
HOW DO WE LOOK TOGETHER ?
WOW! YOU TWO LOOK LIKE YOU COULD CONQUER THE WORLD !!


I'D LOVE A POSTER OF HIM!!
MY FRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL LOVED HIM!!
R...really?!
DRAW ME A COLOR PICTURE OF HIM!
MY ASSISTANT LOVED HIM!
C.C. COLOR!?
MAYBE IF I DRAW A "COOL" GUY, THE GIRLS WILL LIKE HIM?
THE REASON I DREW ARATA IN THE FIRST PLACE...
HE JUST KIND OF... POPPED OUT.
I've never drawn a guy like this before...
IT WAS THE EDITOR WHO SUGGESTED ARATA SHOULD ERASE HIS BUTTERFLY BY BURNING IT WITH A CIGARETTE.
Actually, at that moment I thought I wanted to start drawing Arata so he looked like a loser
YES... I... UNDERSTAND...
TELEPHONE MEETING
Umm.. okay?
PRINCE ARATA WILL CARRY THE COOLNESS OF YOUR MANGA!!
EVEN MY EDITOR (A GUY!) LOVED HIM!!!
THEREFORE...
...I AM CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF A RESEARCH PROJECT CONCERNING WHY GIRLS LIKE THESE SO-CALLED "COOL" GUYS.
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED...
"COOL GUYS" JUST... WEREN'T ENOUGH FOR ME...
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT...
AHHHH! SEE YOU SOON-- IN ANOTHER MANGA!!
The Prince of Tennis*
(*Popular anime and manga)
AHA... ..MAYBE...
OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY 6 / END


BEHIND THE SCENES WITH "OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY"
By TORU FUJIEDA
GREETINGS, EVERYONE, THIS IS YOUR AUTHOR SPEAKING.
YESTERDAY I GOT A PHONE CALL.
WE MISCOUNTED THE NUMBER OF PAGES IN YOUR COMIC! WE NEED TWO MORE! PLEASE!!
SO SORRY
I hadn't even checked it myself...
...FROM MY EDITOR. WHAT A SURPRISE.
I've been making these little trinkets lately
HUNGRY!!
FEED US!
I LIKE THEM TO BE TOO STRAIGHT-FORWARD... AWKWARD, EVEN.
I PREFER THEM TO BE CUTE... ALMOST LIKE... PUPPIES.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I RECENTLY REALIZED THAT MY TASTE IN MEN MIGHT BE A LITTLE... ECCENTRIC.
I LIKE THEM INTROVERTED TO THE POINT OF BEING NEARLY MASOCHISTIC. I WANT TO JUST STARE AT THEM...
UHHH... YES.
TODAY'S SEMINAR: TORU FUJIEDA ON DRAWING THE MALE CHARACTERS IN THIS MANGA
This is the best I could come up with.
SO I FIGURED I WOULD WRITE A LITTLE "BEHIND THE SCENES" BIT ABOUT THIS MANGA...
They LOOOOOVE me!!!
INSTEAD, THE MOST POPULAR CHARACTER WAS... PRINCE ARATA!!
AND THE READERS... DIDN'T LIKE HIM!!
Maybe he's too cute?!
SO WITH THIS IMAGE IN MIND, I DREW TSUBAME.
HE'S, LIKE, THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF TSUBAME...
You need to draw someone tougher!!
HUH?



Is everything about to get **confused** all over again?

It's all over between Kanoko and Tsubame... or is it? Tsubame thinks he's met his true past-life love and Kanoko's trying to figure out how she feels about Arata, the boy band singer. But they just can't shake their true feelings for one another. And Mike's about to drop a bomb from the past that will change everything!

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